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American Zionists split over call to aid PLO

MARILYN HENRY
NEW YORK

A CALL by the president of the American Zionist Movement for American Jewish groups to contribute aid to the PLO has split the American Jewish community. Tsomet/USA has broken ranks with the AZM, saying that Seymour Reich overstepped his role.

At issue is an opinion piece, written for American Jewish newspapers, in which Reich said that American Jews should push for US funding for the PLO.

Under the headline, "Yes, the PLO should receive US aid," Reich wrote: "Whether we should help the PLO with American aid is not the real question. Whether we should help Israel by encouraging assistance to the fledgling Palestinian Authority is the fundamental issue for the American Jewish community and the American people."

The effort to deny aid to the Palestinian Authority, he wrote, "plays right into the hands of Islamic extremists and other enemies of Israel."

Following Reich's op-ed piece, Howard Weber, a member of the Tsomet/USA board, said his group, the American affiliate of the party led by Rafael Eitan, was suspending its membership in AZM.

"The AZM, as an umbrella organization covering 21 Zionist groups with diverse political philosophies, should not be taking political positions," said Weber, who also resigned from the post he held on the AZM cabinet.

Weber contended that Reich's op-ed piece disregarded the views of some constituent groups and that the organization has taken a stand for which it has no mandate. "How can an umbrella organization whose membership includes both Labor Zionists of America and Likud USA ever feel justified in taking a political stance?"

Reich, past president of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, noted that the movement previously has taken political positions, including its support for clemency for Jonathan Pollard, who is serving a life sentence in the US on charges of spying for Israel.

Some of AZM's 21 member groups, representing an estimated one million American Jews, are obviously partisan. But the organization also includes groups such as Hadasah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Mercaz-Zionist Organization of Conservative Judaism and the North American Aliya Movement.

Reich wrote his op-ed piece in response to a request from American Jewish journalists who were seeking a counterpoint to an op-ed piece opposing US aid to the PLO.



An IDF soldier faces Palestinian protesters yesterday in Al-Bireh. (Khaled Zighari)

Meretz questions PM over settlements

SARAH HONG

THE Meretz ministers and Knesset faction are demanding an urgent meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin over what they suspect are "secret undertakings by Rabin to continue construction in existing settlements."

Meretz Knesset faction chairman, Zeev Elkin, requested the meeting yesterday in a letter he dispatched to Rabin in which he claimed that Meretz possesses information that Rabin, "or someone acting on his behalf," had reached agreement with the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza and with individual settlements to allow settlement expansion.

Cohen maintains that "these agreements were made in contradiction to declared government policy, and without informing Meretz, and this despite the clear knowledge that Meretz actively opposes any further construction in the settlements."

A source close to Rabin refused to confirm or deny the Meretz assertion last night. But the source did invite Meretz to "relay to the prime minister whatever information the faction claims to have obtained."

Meretz has been seeing red ever since the Efrat issue erupted. It was clear that Rabin gave the go-ahead for construction, and then did not stop it but reached a compromise with the settlers, which vexed Meretz.

But the displeasure with Rabin is reported to run far deeper in Meretz than the particular suspicions Cohen refers to in his letter.

The consensus in the party is that Rabin has in effect already

drawn up a map for the permanent settlement with the PLO, and that this map includes under Israel's control regions such as Gush Etzion and settlements like Alpeh Menashe, adjacent to the Green Line and which were approved by Labor governments.

In private conversations, Meretz leaders accuse Rabin of willfully concealing information from them. "Rabin talks with [NRP MK] Hanan Porat and [Council head] Uri Ariel more than he does with members of his largest and most loyal coalition partner," Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni complained yesterday.

She contended that "there is construction in many settlements and we have the right to know where and why. I assume Rabin has his conception of the state's ultimate frontiers but he cannot keep everything to himself and keep us all in the dark. We have the right to know the exact construction sites according to Rabin's own map. A place like Psagot is a worse sore than Netzarim, and suddenly we hear that a road is being constructed there. This is insufferable."

Aloni took Arafat adviser Ahmed Tibi to task "for inflaming passions too much at this juncture. This is counterproductive to the continuation of the peace process. We and Tibi have the same aims but caution and prudence are indicated."

Tibi has been leading Arab protests against a number of Israeli settlements.

Palestinians protest land confiscation

HERB KEINON

AS dozens of Palestinians stood in Al-Bireh yesterday, chanting "No peace with settlements," about 80 Psagot and Beit El residents sought to keep Palestinians from trying to halt construction on a Ramallah bypass road.

A number of Palestinians met at Al-Bireh's city hall in the morning to protest what they claim is the expropriation of some 5,000 dunams for the construction of the new road.

The protest was part of a series designed to highlight settlement activity following the El-Khader confrontations last week.

People from the area villages of Deir Dibwan, Ein Yabrud, and Bidin, complaining of land confiscation in their areas, also attended.

Among the participants was Suleiman Najab, head of the Palestinian People's Party and a member of the PLO executive committee.

"The majority there support the peace process but are frustrated. I heard Foreign Minister [Shimon] Peres say in Cairo that there will be no confiscations for settlements but bypass roads also mean confiscating land," Najab told *The Jerusalem Post*.

The settlers' govt wind of the meeting, and thought that a procession was scheduled to the land in question near Psagot. They went to the site to block the procession.

"We went out to ensure that what happened in Efrat won't happen here," said Shlomo Fibler, of Psagot. "We want to make sure that work on the road will continue, and that there

won't be a capitulation here."

In the end, the Palestinians did not march.

Meanwhile, as a result of the compromise worked out between Efrat and the government, the bulldozers that stopped work on Givat Hatamar Tuesday began work yesterday on Givat Hazayit.

Givat Hazayit is adjacent to an existing Efrat neighborhood, while Givat Hatamar is about a kilometer and a half away from the settlement. Although various government bodies determined that Givat Hatamar is state land and it has been incorporated into Efrat's master plan, El-Khader residents claim that the land is theirs.

As a result of the government compromise, members of Gush Shalom were in El-Khader last night, meeting with local residents about how to fight the decision. Meretz is scheduled to hold a demonstration on the hill today, to protest the government's "decision to continue building and expanding the settlements."

Adam Keller, a spokesman for Gush Shalom, said that dozens of Israelis and Palestinians met in El-Khader and decided to fight the building on Givat Hazayit. Keller said the police ordered the Israelis to leave the village, but that they will come back "again and again until construction in the settlements is completely stopped. We and the Palestinians are determined to keep up the struggle and will not be deterred by arrests and violence."

Jon Immanuel contributed to this report.

IDF kills four wanted terrorists in shoot-out

Soldiers, Palestinian police clash in Gaza

JON IMMANUEL and ALON PINKAS

UNDERCOVER soldiers last night shot dead four Palestinians in Beit Likiya, in the Ramallah area, after shots were fired at them from a car, the IDF reported. One soldier was lightly wounded in the leg.

The Duvdevan soldiers were on an operation inside the village.

One of those killed was Ali Mafarja, a Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine member wanted for more than two years for complicity in attacks on army targets. The other three were not immediately identified, but an army source confirmed that they were also wanted members of the PFLP. A pistol was found in the car.

The shooting capped a day in which soldiers came under fire several times.

A man in the camouflage uniform of the Palestinian security police fired at the IDF post at the Erez checkpoint. No one was hurt and soldiers returned fire.

Soldiers at another checkpoint, south of the first, saw two uniformed figures running from the orchard from which the shots were fired. The two fled towards Gaza.

The army said troops and Palestinian policemen in the area conducted joint searches and were taking unspecified steps to ensure such clashes did not recur.

Palestinian Authority spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeinneh denied that police had been involved. "We did not open fire yesterday or two days ago. We are committed to the peace process. We need peace as much as you need it."

Asked if opposition gunmen wearing police uniforms might have opened fire, he said, "I do not wish to interpret the event."

Two passersby were wounded in the shooting, and taken to Gaza Hospital, Palestinian sources said.

Shots were fired at a bus passing Morag last night. No injuries were reported, although one of the passengers fainted.

The IDF closed Route 90 through Jericho for the second night running for security reasons, following fears of revenge attacks after the IDF shooting of three Palestinian policemen in Gaza on Monday night.

In Hebron, a youth tried to stab a soldier near Beit Romano, but another soldier stopped him. The youth was arrested.

In Tulkarm, seven Hamas activists were arrested, Israel Radio reported.

The navy intercepted a fishing boat on its way from Egypt to Gaza and, after searching it for weapons, arrested one of the fishermen, while turning the other crew members over to the Palestinian authorities, the IDF reported.

Four die in road accidents; 11-car pile-up in Jerusalem

DAVID RUDGE and Itim

FOUR people died on the nation's highways yesterday.

Staff-Sgt. Orrit Harish was killed when the car she was driving was hit by a truck on Route 4, south of Hadera. According to police, the truck swerved into the oncoming lane to avoid a collision with the car in front of it. It then struck one car a glancing blow, forcing it off the road, but hit Harish's car head-on. The truck driver, who escaped unhurt, was arrested.

In a collision between a truck and a van at the Beit Lid Junction, Yitzhak Bar, 54, of Haifa, was killed and another man seriously injured. The injured man was taken to Hillel Yoffe Hospi-

tal in Hadera.

In Gush Etzion, two men were killed and five others injured in a collision between a car and an ambulance. All the injured were in the car. Those in the ambulance, which was rushing to a hospital in Hebron, were trapped inside and had to be rescued.

In Jerusalem, three people were injured in a pile-up near the intersection of Yigal Yadin Blvd. and Golda Meir Blvd., which involved 11 vehicles. The accident was apparently caused when a truck driver lost control of his vehicle, which rear-ended a bus, which hit the car in front of it.

Police tell Knesset they have no objection to casino

EVELYN GORDON

THE police have no objection to establishing a casino here, Cmdr. Yossi Levy, head of the investigations division, told the Knesset Economics Committee's tourism subcommittee yesterday.

Though Police Minister Moshe Shahal opposes the idea, Levy said, the professionals have studied the question, and have no opposition as long as the proper legislation - including granting the police the right to veto any proposed casino owner - is passed and police manpower is increased.

Levy's statement came following a strong pitch for casinos by the star attraction of the meeting: Las Vegas Mayor Jan Jones.

Most people, Jones noted, perceive Las Vegas as "Sin City." "But I underline 'perception,' because that isn't the reality," she said. "[Las Vegas] is the fast-

est-growing city [in the US], and that's because of the quality of life."

This quality of life, she said, is largely due to the gambling industry, which has invested some \$6 billion in the city over the past five years, and draws 23 million to 25 million tourists a year to a city of one million. Fifty-six percent of gaming revenues go to the city's educational system, she said, and gaming also funds most of the city's cultural activities.

The reason most people fear gambling, Jones noted, is that they believe it attracts organized crime, prostitution, and drug use. However, she said, this can be prevented by strict regulation and increased investment in law enforcement - which gambling revenues make possible.

Thus Las Vegas, she said, has about the same crime rate as any other city of one million, despite the influx of 23 million tourists a year.

"You can walk around 24 hours a day, with buckets of money, and be relatively unafraid of muggings," she said.

To achieve this, Jones said, the city spends some \$50 million a year on law enforcement, including putting some 1,200 policemen



Las Vegas Mayor Jan Jones at the Knesset. (Isaac Harari)

on the street. In addition, she said, the city has a special "tourist police," aimed at aiding and protecting tourists, which helped produce an 11% drop in the crime rate last year.

In addition, she said, Las Vegas is very choosy about who it licenses to run its casinos. All are run by publicly-traded compa-

nies, many of them Fortune 500.

Once gambling is regulated, she added, the government can decide what restrictions to place on casinos and what social contributions to demand from them. In New Orleans, for instance, the city forbade casinos to open restaurants so they would not compete with the French Quarter, and made them agree to provide child care and housing assistance for their employees.

Jones stressed that casinos should be privately rather than publicly run. "Like any other business, [this] is a business that requires specific expertise," she explained.

Jones also said she strongly recommends setting up a casino in Eilat, where the resort atmosphere and infrastructure already exist.

"If you were to ask me whether gambling makes sense in Jerusalem, I'd say absolutely not," she said.

"People like to gamble," she concluded. "Whether they gamble legally or illegally, they're going to gamble."

Therefore, she said, it is better to regulate the industry and get the attendant social benefits provided by its revenues.

All the subcommittee members, even those who said they oppose gambling in principle, said Israel should have a casino, given the reality of casinos right across the border in Tabat and Akaba. Israelis are thought to spend hundreds of millions of dollars a year gambling overseas and in illegal casinos here.

"There's no point investing lots of money to bring tourists to Israel so they can spend their money elsewhere," said Tourism Minister Uzi Baran, adding that 60% of the public favors building a casino.

The main opposition comes from the religious, who object to the ethical and educational message legalized gambling would send. Yehzekel cynically suggested that these moral qualms might be alleviated by promising them a cut of the revenue.

In any case, however, he said he plans to bring a private member's bill to legalize casinos, co-sponsored by Dan Tichon (Likud), for a preliminary reading in the plenum within 45 days. The idea has been studied enough, he said; it is time to implement it. Sands Hotel boss: Open casinos before it's too late, Page 8

US investigating reports Israel helped China develop jet

WASHINGTON (AP) - The State Department is investigating reports Israel provided China with US aviation technology to help develop a modern fighter jet.

No evidence of an illegal transfer has turned up, but if it does sanctions would be applied against Israel, spokesman Michael McCurry said.

"This has been an item on our agenda for some time," he said in response to an AP report from Tel Aviv quoting Defense Ministry Director-General David Ivri

as saying Israel had sold China "some technology on aircraft" under contracts "very small in magnitude."

In a bid to replace a fighter fleet rapidly reaching obsolescence, China is developing a new jet designated the F10. According to earlier reports, it will be based on the Lavi, a joint Israeli-US fighter-bomber abandoned in 1987.

"Those types of reports concern us very deeply. This has been going around for some time," McCurry said.

On the thirtieth day after the passing of our beloved mother and sister

ELLA WILLIAMS ז"ל

a memorial service and the unveiling of the tombstone will take place today, Thursday, January 5, 1995 (Shvat 4) at 2:30 p.m., at the Sanhedria Cemetery in Jerusalem. We would like to thank all who offered their condolences.

Sons: Meir and Yoetz Deutsch
Sister: Lea Mendlovic



Lebanon wants to join Syria-Israel talks in Washington

Perry to visit Golan next week, will discuss using US troops

LEBANON said yesterday that it wants to join the Syrian-Israeli security talks in Washington to push for an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

"Lebanon is ready if invited to participate in the meetings... provided the discussion will focus on setting up a mechanism for an Israeli military withdrawal from south Lebanon in addition to the Golan Heights," Defense Minister Mohsen Dalloul said in an interview with Egypt's official Middle East News Agency.

"Lebanon has more than once

ALON PINKAS and news agencies

declared its willingness to form a joint military committee with Israel to discuss a mechanism and timetable for an Israeli withdrawal once Israel declares its commitment to withdraw from the south," Dalloul said.

In Damascus yesterday, Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu arrived for talks with President Hafez Assad on pushing forward the stalled Syrian-Israeli negotiations.

"Mr. Papandreu will try to

mediate between Syria and Israel to advance the Middle East peace talks," a Greek foreign ministry official said. "His trip has been discussed with the European Union and the United States."

Meanwhile, a senior Pentagon official said yesterday in Washington that US Secretary of Defense William Perry will visit the Golan Heights and discuss the possibility of using US troops in a peacekeeping force.

Perry will arrive here for a two-

day official visit on January 8, his first since being appointed as the Pentagon's top official last year.

Perry's trip in the region will include Egypt, Pakistan and India, in what appears to be a tour of the four countries unwilling to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Perry will be hosted by Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin and will meet with President Ezer Weizman and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. He has meetings scheduled with the IDF's top brass.



Sgt. Amit Nehemia, accused of stealing a tank from his base in Julis and taking it for a joy ride last October, sits between two MPs in Military Appeals Court in Tel Aviv yesterday. Judge Brig.-Gen. Uri Shoham rejected Nehemia's appeal of his remand until the completion of legal proceedings, saying that while he recognized Nehemia was emotionally distraught about his army service, the method he had chosen to seek help was unacceptable.

(Text: Itim; Photo: Ophira Yachman / IPPA)

Bill to incorporate Etzion Bloc defeated

LIAT COLLINS

MK ELIAHU Ben-Elissar (Likud) failed in his attempt yesterday to pass his private member's bill proposing to place Gush Etzion under Israeli jurisdiction, but succeeded in introducing a new term to the Knesset minutes.

"De-confiscation" is not a word you will find in the dictionary," said Ben-Elissar from the Knesset podium. "Only Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in his genius could concoct such a word."

Ben-Elissar was referring to an Ha'aretz story which said Peres had used this word in his talks with the PLO about stopping the construction on Tamar Hill.

The bill was defeated 40-30. The two Shas MKs in the chamber voted with the opposition.

Ben-Elissar called on the Labor party to honor its electoral platform which had twinned the terms "Jerusalem surroundings" with Gush Etzion and promised to keep control of them.

"We owe it to those who fought there in 1947, those who fell there in 1948 and those who were captured, and to those who redeemed the place in 1967."

"All attempts at competing to show who loves the Land of Israel most are in vain," said Justice Minister David Libai in response. "Gush Etzion is dear to all of us."

He said Likud could have annexed Gush Etzion when it was in power and therefore had no right to accuse Labor for not doing it now.

Court bars GSS interrogators from using unnecessary force

Jerusalem Post Staff and agencies

THE High Court has issued an order barring interrogators from using force against a Palestinian prisoner unless they prove coercive methods are needed, officials said yesterday.

The prisoner, Omar Ammar, said interrogators denied him sleep for five days, placed a sack over his head, tied his hands behind his back, and shackled him to a wall, according to his lawyer, Andre Rosenthal.

Justice Dalia Dorner ordered the General Security Service to halt such measures or explain within 10 days why they are necessary, the Justice Ministry said.

Human rights groups have repeatedly criticized the GSS's permission to use "moderate physical pressure," believed to include threats, sleep deprivation, beatings, tying up detainees in painful

positions, and locking them in tiny cells for hours.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin recently said he was easing restrictions on interrogations to crack down on Islamic militants.

Ammar, from Hebron, was arrested November 24 on suspicion of belonging to Hamas.

The Tuesday ruling reflected a growing inclination by the High Court to intervene in such cases, Rosenthal said.

Rosenthal said it was his third successful petition since July. In the past, he said, petitions were delayed so that the interrogation was over by the time they were heard.

"It's working finally. The court has finally decided it can inter-

Israel seeks four-year interim period in withdrawal from Golan

DAN IZENBERG and LIAT COLLINS

ISRAEL is demanding a four-year interim period between implementation of the first and second phases of a withdrawal from Golan Heights territory: Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told the Knesset yesterday.

A senior government official later confirmed that this was the government's "opening position" in peace talks with Syria.

"As far as the timetable is concerned, we keep drawing Syrian attention to the timetable with the Egyptians, in which at least four years went by between the first and second stages, while relations were normalized after the first stage," said Peres.

The foreign minister was replying to six motions to the agenda on last week's Alexandria summit meeting attended by the leaders of Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia.

Peres said he was "not enthusiastic" about the summit, and that he found the resolutions regarding Israeli-Syrian negotiations unacceptable. During a visit to Cairo on Tuesday to discuss the peace process with Palestinian leaders, Peres also met with President Hosni Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Mousa to discuss the summit.

"I told my Egyptian colleagues: 'It's okay if you want to fulfill a mediating role between us and the Syrians,'" said Peres, "but if that's the case, give your support to peace, not to one of the sides involved in the talks. I told them that their support for the Syrian position, even if it is only verbal, causes the Syrians to harden their position."

Peres said he also discussed reported Arab fears that Israel wanted to dominate the Middle East economically. "I told them that we are not giving up control of Arab territory in order to win control of

the Arab economy... 'All the world is running after us. If you don't want our help, that's fine. We are not pressing you and we are not asking anything of you. Just say so and we will leave. You don't want to benefit from Israeli contacts, Israeli skill, that's fine with us. We are not putting pressure on you and we are not asking anything of you. The answer we received [from the Egyptians] on the spot was 'heaven forbid.'"

Peres said that Mubarak had promised in the talks that he would support Israel's inclusion in a Mediterranean forum organized by Egypt and France, to which Israel had not been invited.

Peres also counted as an achievement the following development: When Israel television asked Mubarak "whether Egypt supports the economic boycott of Israel, his answer was: 'No, there is no economic boycott between Egypt and Israel.'"

Peres also said that Egypt did not demand that Israel give up its nuclear arsenal immediately, even though it is demanding that Israel sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty when it comes up for renewal in April.

"Their formula is: peace plus a Middle East free of nuclear weapons," said Peres. "Our formula is - and they agree with us - when we say: a Middle East free of wars will be a Middle East in which we can discuss a Middle East free of nuclear weapons."

In his introductory remarks, Peres played down the importance of the summit. "This is not the first summit meeting in the Middle East," he said. "Most of these meetings dealt with how to declare war against us or hurt us. At least this one... spoke about the need for peace as a strategic option for the Middle East."

Israeli-Arab Fatah Hawks to be tried

TWO youths from Kfar Masha'ra in Wadi Ara have been arrested for belonging to the Fatah Hawks and will be tried before a military court, following a decision by State Prosecutor Dorit Beinisch.

Mustafa Jabrin, 20, and Mohammed Jabrin, 18, were arrested a month ago, but Haifa Magistrate's Court allowed publication of the case only yesterday.

The two were accused of distributing Fatah leaflets, and Mustafa was also accused of being associated with the killers of three soldiers in the Galed tent camp three years ago; a charge he denied. (Itim)

IDF: Soldiers stopped by PA police were in uniform

ALON PINKAS

THE 10 IDF soldiers detained briefly by Palestinian police in Gaza on Tuesday night were in uniform, the IDF Spokesman said in the fourth clarification issued on the incident.

The army late Tuesday night confirmed reports that soldiers had entered the autonomous area, pursuing a car in which they suspected a kidnapped soldier was being transported. Once the car was stopped, and its passengers identified as workers on their way home, the soldiers turned around, but their van got stuck in the mud.

While the soldiers were trying to extricate the van, they were approached by Palestinian policemen, who checked their identities and inquired into their reasons for being there.

The soldiers told an army inquiry that they had alerted a Palestinian policeman that they were in pursuit of a suspect car, but Palestinian police denied that. Maj.-Gen. Azrak, commander of Palestinian police patrols, said the soldiers shot a

rubber bullet at his men. The IDF denied this.

Palestinian Police Chief Gen. Yussuf Nasser convened a news conference and said that "12 Israeli undercover soldiers have been detained."

Initially the army said that "no soldiers are being held by Palestinian police."

After reporters asked if they were held at some point, the IDF Spokesman issued a "clarification," in which he stressed that "no soldiers were arrested during the day." When asked if soldiers were stopped for questioning, but not arrested, he said: "The army will issue further clarification."

He was then asked to confirm details of the event, by then obtained through Southern Command sources. At midnight, the spokesman confirmed the incident, but upheld the original denial that no soldiers were held.

Yesterday morning a last clarification was issued, saying that the soldiers were not undercover, but in uniform.

Donkeys' salaries boost capital's budget to record level

BILL HUTMAN

"SALARIES" for three donkeys were approved as part of the 1995 Jerusalem municipal budget yesterday.

But at only NIS 5,000 a year a piece, it wasn't the animals - used to help sanitation crews in the narrow corridors of the Old City - that boosted the deficit in the 1995 Jerusalem municipal budget to an unprecedented NIS136.7 million.

A major rise in outlays for salaries to city workers, together with a large rise in funding for education, were the major causes for the big deficit.

The budget "reflects the change of priorities (begun with new city administration last year) at City Hall, largely in the areas of social services and education," City Treasurer Ya'acov Efrati wrote, in a letter introducing the budget to city councilors.

Efrati noted that with the large deficit "it will be difficult to ensure municipal operations without additional government funding."

The 1995 budget came to NIS 1.5 billion, up some 24 percent over the previous year. It was approved by a vote of 18 to 9 by the city council, after a marathon debate.

Tourists injured by horseman

BILL HUTMAN

TWO German tourists were moderately injured in Jerusalem yesterday, when an Arab rode his horse into them in what police say might have been a terror attack.

"The horse was running down a steep hill, and it's possible that the rider just couldn't stop," a police spokesman said. "But it is also possible that he hit them on purpose, and then fled."

The tourists, in their early 50s, had just stepped off a tourist bus at the Church of Gethsemane when they were hit by the horseman, who then galloped off in the direction of the Old City.

Two doctors with the tour group gave them first aid, then they were taken to Hadassah-University Hospital, Mount Scopus.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Committee formed on pension reform

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Labor Minister Ora Namir agreed last night to appoint a joint committee that will review all the options for pension reform. Although Shohat has not yet adopted a position on the issue, Treasury officials presented the recommendations made by the Fogel Committee on pension reform, which call for a voluntary pension system. Namir, on the other hand, proposes making the system obligatory. The ministers agreed to meet again, and according to Treasury spokesman Elishava Braun, Shohat believes that the differing positions can be reconciled.

Suspect in Zinner murder remanded

A Shfar'am man, suspected of murdering Yeshayahu Zinner, of Haifa, was remanded for 15 days by Haifa Magistrate's Court yesterday. Police said Daoud Kadiri, 31, had confessed to the murder, allegedly following an argument over a loan of NIS 100, and had reconstructed the crime in front of video cameras.

Zinner, 67, was found lying in a pool of blood at his welding shop in Kiryat Bialik's industrial zone on Sunday, after reportedly having been savagely beaten with a blunt instrument.

Accused murderer: I confessed under pressure

Michel Vaknin, suspected of murdering Yeshayahu Damner, of Haifa, claimed yesterday that he had confessed under pressure and that an undercover policeman placed in his cell had gotten him to use drugs.

Vaknin's lawyer told a Haifa District Court judge that his client confessed to the murder after being subject to "a campaign of pressure" and humiliation. He appealed a police request to remand Vaknin, 33, of Ashdod, for another 15 days. However, Judge Eliahu Cohen rejected the appeal, saying that police had enough additional evidence to warrant extending Vaknin's remand. (Itim)

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the queen of spades, seven of hearts, ace of diamonds and king of clubs.

Two convicted policemen ordered dismissed

INSPECTOR-General Assaf Hefetz ordered the firing of two Lod policemen from the force yesterday after they were convicted in Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court of assault on a driver who they suspected of committing traffic offenses. The two, Aryeh Cohen and Faisal Abu Samcha, attacked the driver while they were patrol policemen in 1990.

Raine Marcus

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

JANE GULIS ז"ל

Widow of the late Rev. Isaac Gulis (formerly of Cape Town, South Africa)

The funeral will take place today, Thursday, 4th of Shvat 5755, 5.1.95 at 2:00 p.m. at the Yarkon cemetery (near the Morasha Junction).

Mourning by

Her daughter and son-in-law: Channa and Dr. Avraham

Eldelman and family

Daughter:

Melka Gulis

Son and daughter-in-law: Abe and Marian Gulis

Grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Shiva at 2 Kaplansky Street, Givatayim

Our special wife and mother

REVITAL (Revi) BECKER

passed away on January 2, 1995.

We ask those who loved her in life to join us at the grave, to be with us in our sadness.

Burial will be in Rehovot on January 6, 1995, at 11:00 a.m.

The shiva will take place at the Becker family home, 2 Neve Alon St., Rehovot.

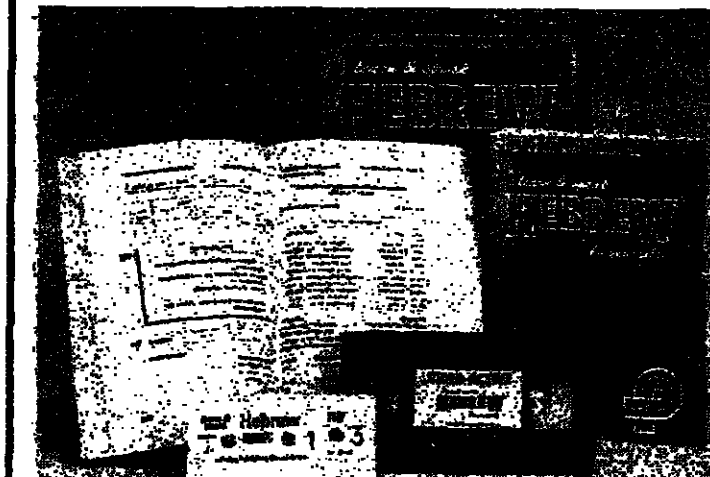
Husband: Stuart Becker

Sons: Gahl, Ori, Dan

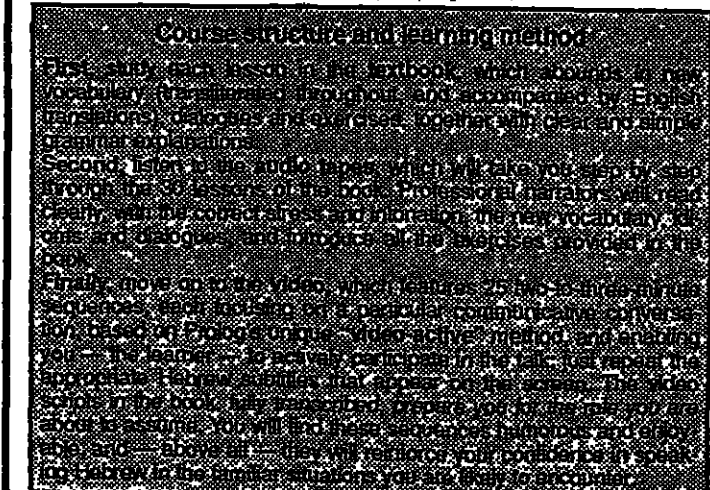
Parents: Zvi, Drora Almog

Sister: Anat Almog

WELCOME TO HEBREW!



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Kessar gives Russia a week to solve El Al issue

TRANSPORTATION Minister Yisrael Kessar yesterday gave the Russians a week's grace in which to solve the problem of El Al security personnel in Russian airports, before he bans all flights by Russian airlines to Israel.

As a result of the incidents last week, in which Russian police banned Israeli guards from carrying weapons, El Al yesterday canceled two more flights to Russia: a flight to St. Petersburg with 80 passengers early yesterday morning, and a flight to Moscow with 120 passengers last night.

Another flight, due to leave for Moscow tomorrow night, was

still scheduled, although airline officials said it was likely that this flight would also be canceled.

Earlier, Transportation Ministry officials had indicated that they would give the Russians until the end of this week to restore the situation, whereby Israeli guards are allowed to be armed. However, Kessar yesterday extended the ultimatum until Tuesday in answer to a plea from the Russian Foreign Ministry to allow Transaero and Aeroflot, the two Russian airlines, to continue flying to Israel.

According to the Russians, the New Year's holiday had made it

HAIM SHAPIRO

impossible for them to determine who gave the order and what were the motives. In a telephone conversation with Transportation Ministry spokesman Eli Danon, the director of international relations in the Russian Foreign Ministry surmised that the order was given because of increased sensitivity regarding weapons in the wake of the Chechnya conflict.

Yesterday, Police Ministry Director-General Ya'acov Lapidot left for Russia in an effort to discuss the issue with Russian police officials.

Kessar tried to contact his Russian counterpart by telephone yesterday but was unable to do so. However, the Russian Foreign Ministry official told Danon that a meeting regarding the Israeli security guards was to be held at the ministry last night.

El Al spokesman Nachman Kheiman stressed that although the flights to Russia have been suspended, El Al is continuing to fly to other destinations in the former Soviet Union, including Kiev, Odessa and Minsk.

The Transportation Ministry views the disarming of Israeli guards as a violation of the avia-

tion agreement between the two countries, an agreement which includes a specific paragraph concerning security. Civil Aviation Administration head Menachem Sharon said that it was intolerable that El Al planes should not be able to fly to Russia while Russian planes continued to fly to Israel.

The Jewish Agency issued a statement saying it is ready for any situation which could develop as a result of the air travel crisis with Russia, and is working to continue the aliya process without delay by implementing an alternate flight system.

Divorce bill vote postponed due to women MKs' objections

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Law Committee yesterday deferred voting on a bill to impose sanctions on people who refuse to grant their spouses a Jewish divorce, after female MKs objected to the committee's decision to apply the bill to both men and women.

Committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) said the committee has basically already decided to apply the bill to both sexes, but in deference to the objections, it decided to hold a special meeting on the issue.

The bill enables the rabbinical courts to impose a number of sanctions on someone who refuses to grant his spouse a divorce. They can deny him a passport, visa, or driver's license; keep him from opening a bank account or writing checks on an existing account; deny him any job in the civil service, IDF, or any other publicly funded body; deny him the right to work in any profession requiring a license, such as law or medicine; and keep him from leaving the country.

The original bill, as drafted by the Justice Ministry, applied only to men. However, the committee decided the rabbinical courts should also be able to impose these sanctions on women who refuse to accept a divorce from their husbands, since, under Jewish law, a divorce requires the consent of both parties. While there are many fewer women who refuse to accept a divorce than there are men who refuse to grant one, the committee decided it might as well try to deal with both problems at once.

However, all the female MKs objected to this change, according to Zucker.

"For me, gender equality is the goal," explained Naomi Chazan (Meretz). "But there must be equality of all the conditions... [The proposed amendment] attempts to say there is an equality between men and women who cannot obtain a divorce. According to Jewish law, however, this isn't true."

Men whose wives refuse a divorce are still in much better shape than women whose husbands will not divorce them, she explained. First, in certain cases, men can get a special permit from 100 rabbis to take a second wife. Second, if worse comes to worst, they can live with another woman out of wedlock with no penalties. An undivorced woman who lived with another man, however, would have a serious problem: Her children would be *mamzerim*.

Since 98% of those who cannot get a divorce are women, Chazan added, the bill's primary goal must be to aid women.

"[The proposed amendment] would take away from women who have virtually no tools with which to protect their rights — the only tool they do have," she said.



Romanian Health Minister Julian Mincu points to a screen monitoring a cardiac catheterization during a tour of Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem yesterday. Hadassah head of cardiology Prof. Mervyn Gottesman looks on. Mincu is here to discuss a number of projects in which Romanian and Israeli doctors will cooperate. (Avi Hayon)

Optometry studies get academic degree status

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Hadassah College of Technology in Jerusalem and the Vision Center in Tel Aviv have become the first schools in the country to receive permission to grant an academic degree for the study of optometry. The Council for Higher Education, meeting on Tuesday night, decided to allow these institutions to grant a bachelor's degree in this paramedical specialty.

College director Dr. Ya'acov Amidi said the decision was a "breakthrough" in its recognition of the importance of the profession, which involves vision tests, assessment of

field-of-vision and coordination between the eyes, diagnosis of defects in vision and deciding how they can be corrected.

Amidi said that it expects 20 to 25 students will be accepted into the new four-year program in September. Until now, he said, "the optometry profession has been a free-for-all, and anyone could claim to be a professional."

The Jerusalem college has asked the council to grant academic approval to several other programs it offers, including those for com-

puter studies, electro-optics and laboratory technicians.

The council will establish a committee to ensure that the college carries out its commitments regarding an academic program in optometry. The Vision Center will run its program in conjunction with Bar-Ilan University.

Health Ministry spokeswoman Yifat Ben-Hai denied that there was chaos in the profession, and said the ministry does grant licenses to optometrists and supervise their work. However, the ministry had not yet been informed of the council's decision, she said.

Missionaries active among Ethiopian immigrants

DAN IZENBERG

ABSORPTION Minister Yair Tzaban has appointed two officials to investigate complaints regarding missionary activity among Ethiopian immigrants, he told the Knesset plenum yesterday.

Tzaban was responding to a parliamentary query by Shaul Yahalom (NRP), based on a recent report that Pentecostal missionaries were active among Ethiopian teenagers living in boarding schools, and had converted some of them to Christianity.

Tzaban confirmed the report, and said he had appointed one of his personal aides and the official in charge of Ethiopian aliyah to examine each complaint. "I have held consultations with central

figures in the Ethiopian community, we worked out guidelines and are dealing with the issue," he said.

Tzaban said he took a "grave view of any missionary activity which exploits the distress of human beings to convert them to any faith. This is particularly true with regard to the Ethiopian community. It is cynical exploitation of a state of crisis caused by the shock of immigration and the passage from one culture to another."

The report was based on a complaint by Yitzhak Kadman, head of the National Council for the Welfare of the Child, who wrote that missionary activity is

being conducted in schools, including religious institutions. In one case, where girls were caught conducting a Christian ritual, they were expelled and are now learning in a convent.

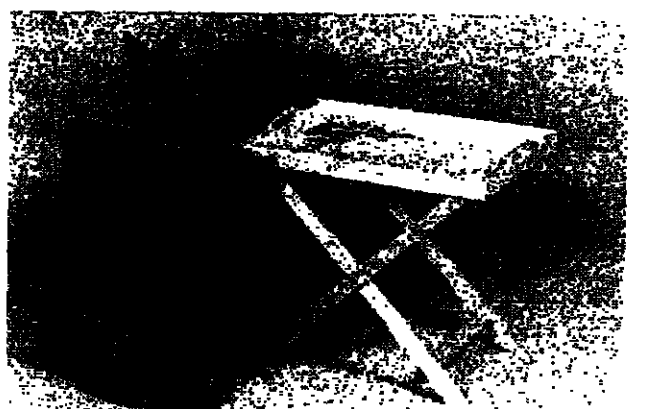
Yahalom said that in addition to the information provided by Kadman, he had information that a missionary office had been set up in Netanya and that missionaries are active in the Neveh Car-

mel caravan site.

Yahalom, quoting allegations by the anti-missionary group Yad L'achim, said police are under orders not to investigate complaints of missionary activity without authorization from the attorney-general or the state attorney.

"This only encumbers the process," said Yahalom. "These instructions are based on indifference and the missionaries exploit the situation."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Body found in capital park

A Romanian worker was found dead yesterday in Jerusalem's Sacher Park. Police do not suspect foul play, and noted Yon Kackula, in his 30s, allegedly had a drinking problem.

Kackula parted from his Romanian co-workers and friends at their road construction project in the park Tuesday evening, and had not been seen by them since. When they came to work yesterday, co-workers found him dead on a dirt path near the project.

Baba Sali's yahrzeit marked

Some 30,000 people traveled to Netivot yesterday to mark the 11th anniversary of the death of Rabbi Yisrael Abuhazzeira, known as the Baba Sali. The visitors kept coming last night, and more are expected today. Several politicians, including Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu, made appearances at the *hilla*. *Itim*

Haredim arrested at Jaffa dig

Three haredim were arrested yesterday for interfering with workers at an archeological dig in Jaffa. Bones had been found at the dig, on a site being prepared for an apartment building, and work suspended several months ago before being resumed yesterday. During its earlier stage, it was the site of daily confrontations between police and haredim. *Itim*

Explosion reported at TAAS Herzliya plant

A small explosion occurred late Tuesday evening near the TAAS-Israel Industries plant in Herzliya's Nof Yam section. No injuries were reported, but a fire broke out as a result of the blast.

The fire was started by a leak of flammable material, and was put out by local firemen. A company spokesman said the explosion was caused during the production of non-toxic material for civilian use. An internal committee was established to investigate the incident. *Itim*

Man remanded in domestic violence case

A disabled and unemployed Haifa man who allegedly beat his wife and children was remanded for five days by the Haifa Magistrate's Court yesterday. According to police, the man, 51, has been beating his family for about a year and refusing to support them. The situation got so bad that his daughter, 13, tried to quit school and get a job to bring in some money. *Itim*

Shaare Zedek pediatric neurology head dies

Prof. Naomi Amir, director of Shaare Zedek's Department of Pediatric Neurology and a world authority on disabled children, died yesterday from cancer at age 63. Born in Chicago and educated at New York University, Hebrew University and Columbia, Amir was appointed to Shaare Zedek in 1990 to establish the new department of Pediatric Neurology. Her philosophy was epitomized by a badge on a big teddy bear she gave to her young patients to cuddle that read: "I may not be perfect, but parts of me are excellent!"

US Holocaust Museum gets new director

A philosopher-historian has been named to succeed Jeshajahu "Shaike" Weinberg as director of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Steven Katz of Cornell University, the unanimous choice of a special search committee, was selected by the 65-member US Holocaust Memorial Council. Council Chairman Miles Lerman announced Tuesday.

Once his contract is ratified, Katz, 50, will oversee an institution with a \$40 million annual budget that has received some 3.5 million visitors since its opening in April 1993.

'Deri never promised to help on Nebi Samwil'

Avraham Hecht, a prosecution witness in Aryeh Deri's trial in Jerusalem District Court, said yesterday that Deri never told him that he would intercede to get the government to provide alternative land at Nebi Samwil to a group headed by Hecht.

Hecht, who headed the Moresheet Binyamin group which bought land at Nebi Samwil, is accused of paying Moshe Weinberg \$200,000 in exchange for Weinberg's promise to obtain a government decision to provide alternative land for the group, after it became clear no building could be done at the original site purchased by the group.

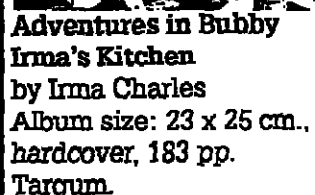
Hecht, declared a hostile witness, also denied Deri was offered any money to intercede on the group's behalf. *Itim*

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Republicans take over Congress

JILL LAWRENCE
WASHINGTON

REPUBLICANS, formally taking over the US Congress yesterday, vowed to bring Americans less government, lower taxes and revolutionary changes on Capitol Hill.

"It's a different day," Sen. Bob Dole, the incoming Senate Majority Leader, said just hours before the newly elected Republican majorities in both the House of Representatives and the Senate took their oaths of office.

"A lot of people didn't think it would happen in their lifetime," Rep. Newt Gingrich said of the new House Republican majority that was poised to elect him speaker. "We're very excited."

The new House has 230 Republicans, 204 Democrats and one independent. The Republican edge in the Senate is 53-47. Prior to November's midterm elections, Democrats controlled both chambers of the US Congress.

The closeness of the margin and the fact that Democratic President Clinton can veto any legislation still gives Democrats considerable power in Washington. But Republicans were promising "revolutionary" changes, particularly in the House.

The new House Republican leaders, rushing to exploit their long-awaited first day at the helm, put eight reform votes on the opening-day agenda and prepared for a noon-to-midnight marathon.

The votes were loaded with

symbolism - votes to cut committee staffs and abolish some committees altogether, to end absentee voting, to require a three-fifths vote to raise income tax rates, and a ban on voting by delegates from US territories such as Puerto Rico and from the nation's capital city.

In the Senate, Republican leaders said they hoped to eliminate at least 100 of 3,600 federal programs and make strides toward a balanced budget and tax cuts.

The new leaders noted repeatedly on a series of morning TV news shows that Republicans have not been in charge of both houses of Congress since Dwight D. Eisenhower was president in the 1950s.

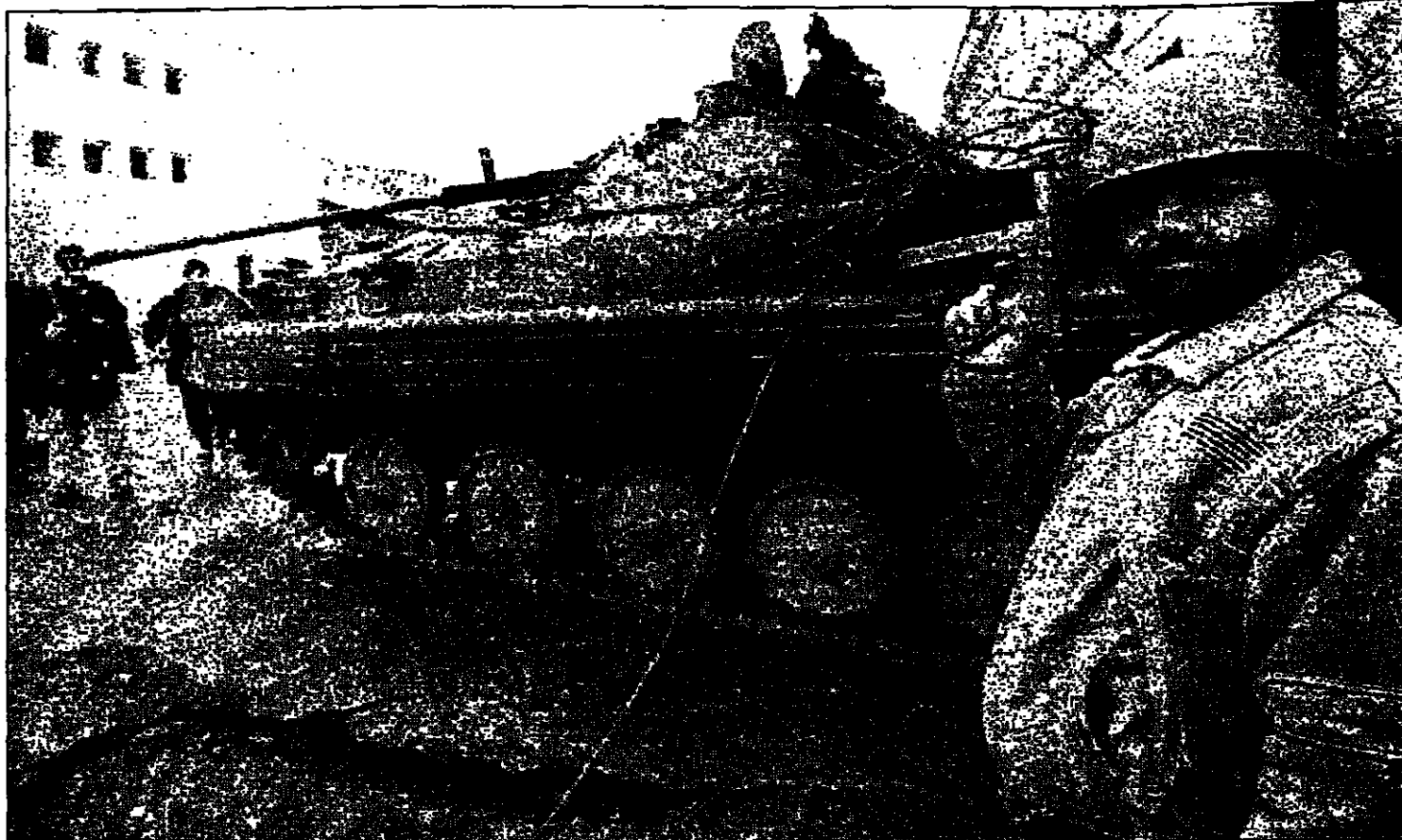
"It's been 40 years, without any disrespect to my Democratic colleagues, I hope they'll relax and let us enjoy the day," Dole said.

The new House minority leader, Rep. Richard Gephardt, said the Democrats would not be obstructionists, but reserved the right to disagree. "I think Democrats need to cooperate where we can, but not capitulate," Gephardt said yesterday.

Leon Panetta, the White House chief of staff, was more explicit.

"We're going to fight the Congress if they try to go back on the reforms we've enacted on education, in the environment, in areas that relate to crime," Panetta said.

(AP)



A Chechen fighter checks the area around a destroyed Russian tank in central Grozny yesterday.

(Reuters)

Yeltsin orders halt to bombing of Grozny

News agencies

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin ordered a halt to Russian bombing of the battered Chechen capital Grozny from midnight (2100 GMT) yesterday to prevent any further civilian deaths.

Yeltsin's press service said he made the decision after meeting top officials in Moscow yesterday and said he had taken into account appeals from ordinary people and members of parliament who have protested against the bombing.

"The decision was taken on the basis of the materials the president has received...and guided by the desire to prevent an increase in the number of victims among the civilian population," the press service said in a statement.

The increasingly bloody effort to put down the secessionist revolt faced mounting criticism yesterday in Europe, where leaders called for talks to end the conflict.

European capitals worried about undermining Russian President Boris Yeltsin had offered

only muted opposition to the crackdown in Chechnya, but the tenor has sharpened as Moscow's forces got bogged down and casualties rose.

Russian warplanes have been bombing Grozny since before Yeltsin sent tanks and troops to rebel Chechnya on December 11 to crush its independence bid. Grozny was bombed and shelled again yesterday.

The air raids, which have caused heavy casualties, outraged the Russian general public and have caused mounting concern abroad.

On December 27 Yeltsin called a halt to bombing of the Chechen capital which could harm civilians but the air force attacks continued regardless.

Russia flew reinforcements to regions bordering Chechnya yesterday in what an official in neighboring Ingushetia called preparation for a major assault on Grozny.

In Vienna, an official at the

Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said the European security organisations permanent council, its decision-making body, would meet on January 12 to discuss ways of helping to stop the fighting.

Russia said it was not prepared to discuss Chechnya with foreign countries. But France urged its European Union partners to demand that Russian President Boris Yeltsin be held to account for his actions in the Chechen crisis.

"We have a right to demand explanations at the OSCE. I have contacted our 14 partners of the European Union so that we turn to Russia and ask Russia to give an explanation," French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said in Paris.

Russia sent troops to Chechnya on December 11 to smash the tiny mainly-Moslem region's bid for independence. It launched a tank-led assault on Grozny, an oil-refining centre of 400,000 which has been depleted by refu-

gee departures, last Saturday.

Hundreds of people are feared to have been killed in days of street battles, but fighters loyal to rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev have so far defied all attempts to seize the city.

Motley Chechen fighters told Reuters in the heart of Grozny that bombs had hit the city centre and the northern outskirts in early morning raids.

A Russian interior ministry official confirmed "pinpoint" bombing of Chechen military positions. But by noon, only the rattle of machinegun fire and shelling from tanks echoed around the fog-shrouded city.

A Reuters cameraman in Grozny said Russian troops were firing out of three districts and had hit residential buildings. No casualty details were available.

The Russian Interfax agency quoted military sources as saying air strikes had destroyed 20 armoured cars belonging to the Chechen rebels. But Chechen fighters were moving freely through the center of the city.

Bihac fighting mars ceasefire

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - The UN said yesterday fighting in the Bosnian enclave of Bihac marred the country's new ceasefire on the eve of a meeting of major powers to discuss how the truce might further the peace process.

The four-month ceasefire between Moslem-led government and Bosnian Serb forces which began on New Year's day has slowed fighting everywhere but Bihac.

The UN reported heavy shelling in the north of the Bihac enclave near Velika Kladusa on Tuesday. Some 300 artillery and mortar explosions landed in the vicinity of the town with more overnight. UN

spokesman Herve Gourmelon told Reuters.

The United Nations has blamed rebel Serbs from the Krajina region in Croatia and renegade Moslem allies for clashes with Bosnian government forces but said there was little they could do as the rebel elements were not signatories to the truce.

Diplomats from the five-nation "contact group" on Bosnia - the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany - planned to hold talks in Bonn today to build on the new truce to press for a negotiated settlement of the war, the German foreign ministry said.

Almost 30 hurt in Bangladesh riots

DHAKA (Reuters) - Nearly 30 people were injured in clashes between opposition activists and police as strikes virtually paralysed the Bangladesh capital for a third day running, witnesses said.

Pickets enforcing the strike attacked bicycle-rickshaw drivers who ventured out in defiance of the stoppage, threw stones and home-made bombs at police and lay down in the street to stop police vehicles who were pursuing them, they said.

Police used batons and hurled bricks in an attempt to disperse the pickets. Witnesses said nearly 30 people were hurt and at least a dozen activists were arrested.

"Police showed quite a bit of restraint in the face of provocation by militant activists," one

said. Troops patrolled Dhaka, a city of seven million people, until the strike ended at 2 p.m. They did not try to stop protesters.

The eight-hour general stoppage ended three days of strikes called by opposition parties in its protracted but so far unsuccessful battle to force Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to quit, paving the way for early polls.

"The time for peace has run out. Now it's time for a relentless movement," said one opposition leader who requested anonymity.

Dhaka, a normally bustling city, again ground to a near-halt with virtually no transport on the streets, forcing many commuters to walk to work.

Home secretary won't quit over prison chaos

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's home secretary yesterday fended off calls for his resignation as a deepening prisons crisis gave Prime Minister John Major his first big political headache of the new year.

As police launched a manhunt for three escaped convicts - all serving life sentences - from a prison on the Isle of Wight off southern England, authorities were counting the cost of a second night of rioting at a jail in northern England.

Political commentators say the latest prisons fiasco has dashed Major's hopes of capitalising on Labour's recent blunder over education policy to rally his demoralised Conservative Party which is badly trailing in the opinion polls.

Home Secretary Michael Howard acknowledged that the events, coming on the heels of the suicide on New Year's Day of alleged "House of Horrors" serial killer Fred West in his prison cell, had raised serious questions about the prison service.

But interviewed on BBC radio, Howard said the priority was to find out what happened at the two jails.

"I accept ultimate responsibility for the prison service...but what people want to know is who did what when things went wrong," he said.

Police said the three men on the run from Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight escaped on Tuesday night by using a ladder to scale the prison's 7.6 meter perimeter wall.

Tracker dogs, a spotter plane and extra police were drafted in to help find the fugitives. Two were serving sentences for murder and the third for explosives offences.

At Everthorpe prison near Hull one policeman and one inmate were injured in the latest rioting before the disturbances were quelled. The prisoners were transferred to other jails.

There's no question that Mr Howard's job is now on the line, Jack Straw, home-affairs spokesman of the main Labour Party opposition, told Sky News television.

"Riots happen in prisons and have to be contained. But when you get an accumulation of events like this and the certainty of a number of policy changes and weaknesses in the way the system is managed now emerging, a powerful case for resignation has now come up," Alan Beith of the minority Liberal Democrats added.

Man cuts out his own evil eye

MERRIAM, Kansas (AP) - A man who thought he saw a pentagram in the iris of his right eyeball popped it out of his head, used a knife to cut the connecting tendons and flushed it down the toilet, police said.

The 26-year-old man, who was not identified, told authorities he looked in the mirror and saw the pentagram, a five-pointed star associated with the occult.

The man told police he had to remove the eyeball because he couldn't remove the pentagram.

"The paramedics said his eye looked puffy and red. It just looked like somebody punched him," said police Lt. Bill Lietzke. "But they opened up the eyelid and pointed a flashlight in there and his eyeball was gone."

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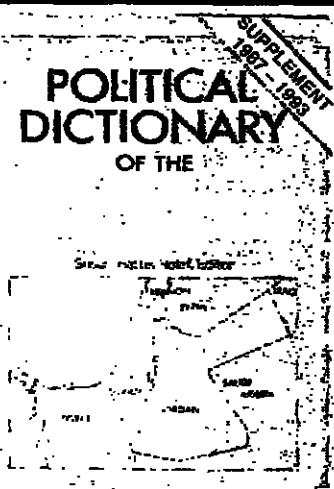
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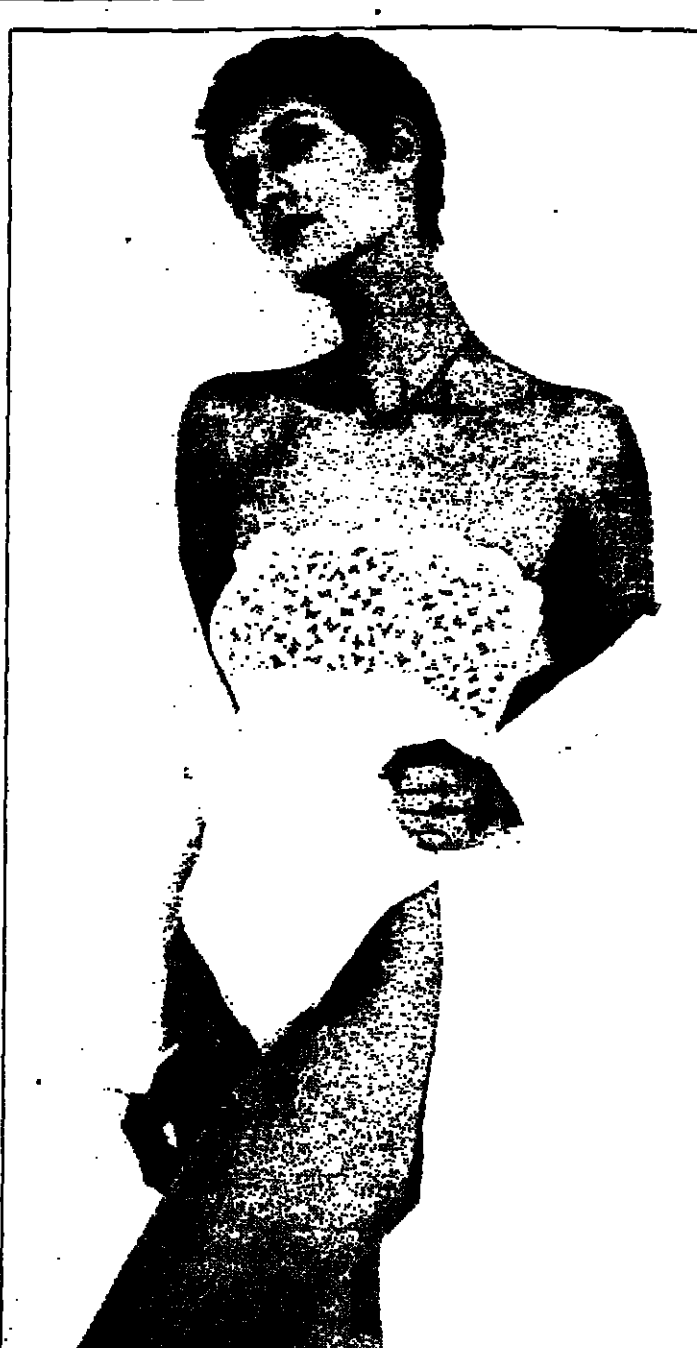
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Tel. _____



Fashions offered by Mondrian (left) and Lou for the upcoming spring/summer period will expose plenty of bare flesh.

Spring/summer look: Spare and bare

THERE will be lots to see when spring/summer fashions take to the streets. Lots of skin.

The look is spare and bare. Necklines, sleeve lengths and skirt lengths will expose plenty of bare flesh.

Preview showings by top-notch designers such as Karl Lagerfeld, Kenzo, Valentino, Bill Blass, Isaac Mizrahi and others all feature bare arms, bare shoulders, bare backs, bare midriffs, bare legs. Some of the garments are so skimpy in fact, they're barely there.

FLAIR

GREER FAY CASHMAN

Underwear transformed into outerwear, most notably by sexy songstress Madonna, will this summer truly come into its own.

Previously confined to slip dresses, bustiers and bra tops, the underwear as outerwear will take on a Hollywood veneer, and will include Lycra-blend corselettes, which will undoubtedly contribute to a trimmer appearance.

Those women who change their hairstyles each season should get ready to go Afro. The bushy Afro cut, so popular twentysomething years ago, is back again, along the funky apparel which was part of that era.

This not only proves that what goes around comes around, but also that politics do indeed influence fashion. Previous borrowings from Africa were an expression of empathy with the victims of apartheid. Current borrowings signify approval of the new African reality.

Low-gear but high grades nonetheless

MOTORING

JOEL GORDIN

DAEWOO SUPER RACER. Engine size: 1,498 cc. Horsepower: 100 at 5,000 rpm. Torque: 14 at 3,400 rpm. Gears: Automatic. Acceleration: 0-100 kph in 12.2 secs. Top speed: 161 kph. Gasoline consumption: at 90 kph, 17 km/l; in town, 9.34 km/l. Price: NIS 65,720.

IN Europe, the follow-up to the Korean-made Daewoo Racer is called Racer 2, as if the car were the sequel to a successful movie.

I had half-expected the local Daewoo dealer, Telcar Ltd., to name it Son of Racer. Instead, Telcar has chosen Super Racer, just as the local Mitsubishi agent picked Super-Lancer for the successor to the Lancer.

It's easy to understand why Telcar wants to keep Racer in the name. The Daewoo Racer has been an outstanding success here. Though some Israelis have sneered at it for being "outdated" and "a poor person's Subaru," 8,917 Israelis bought new Racers between January and October. That makes it the second-best seller for the period.

Telcar hopes the Super Racer will add luster to the marque's image. From the outside, certainly, it's dashing compared to its aging parent. The grill has been revamped and the build is round-

er, smoother and more sophisticated. In fact, the Super Racer could be mistaken for either the Hyundai Lanza or the Daihatsu Applause.

The original Racer was based on the Opel Kadett, a hangover from the days when Daewoo was merged with General Motors, maker of the Opel. Daewoo has since severed its ties with GM and everything on the Super Racer has been designed and made in Korea.

The seats are wide and roomy, but are set low, which makes access an effort. The steering wheel is also too low for comfort and its height cannot be adjusted.

The trunk size is satisfactory. The dash has not been modernized, but that is not altogether a minus. Dashboards in newer Japanese models may be prettier, but they are not as serviceable as the Super Racer's.

The only fault I could find with the Super Racer's fittings was that there was only room for one drink on the center console.

The manufacturer is also stingy with pilot lights on the dash. There's no sign from the inside that the headlights are on or off-

important in view of the law which makes it compulsory to drive in winter with headlights on, even in broad daylight. But a loud bell warns the driver who turns off the engine and leaves the headlights on. There is also no indicator light on the dash to show which gear of the automatic transmission is engaged.

Speaking of the gear shift, it's not the most modern on the market. It has only three forward speeds and nothing on the lines of an "economy" or "sports" mode, or, for that matter, overdrive.

THE TRANSMISSION is probably what keeps the engine from above-average performance. Despite the 100 horses listed by the manufacturer, I had difficulty in accelerating from 0 to 100 kph in less than 16 seconds.

The engine starts off with a pleasant, deep-throated growl, but this develops into an annoying shriek at any speed over 80 kph.

But all this is academic. Those who buy the Super Racer will do so because it offers an impressive package for the price. Included for NIS 65,720 are factory-in-

stalled air-conditioner and stereo, power steering, power windows, central door-locking and automatic antenna.

The manual version of the Super Racer sells for NIS 61,172. The 16-cylinder Super Racer's closest competitor is its landman, the Hyundai Accent, costing about NIS 3,500 more. The Accent's engine has 12 cylinders and generates 91 horsepower, less than the Daewoo. But Accent has a more modern four-speed transmission. The Accent is also smaller, with less seating room and a miserly trunk (303 liters compared to the Super Racer's 330 liters).

Of course, the old Racer, with its 80-hp engine, will still be on sale for about NIS 6,000 less and must be counted as a competitor. Telcar is also offering two more sophisticated Daewoo models: the 2-liter-engine Prince for about NIS 90,000, and the 2-l Super Saloon for NIS 105,000.

The Super Saloon can be mistaken from the outside for a Mercedes, but I'm assured the resemblance ends once you start driving.

CORRECTION

The 960 Volvo is available here in 2.5- and 3-l versions, and not as stated in last week's column. Cabinet ministers use Volvo 740s and 940s, not 850s.

Super-Pharm has new Life

OFF THE SHELF

MARTHA MEISELS

SUPER-PHARM this week launched its own house brand of toiletries, called Life. The 15 products with the striking crimson-and-white label will be prominently displayed in all 39 branches of the pharmacy chain.

The chain says its private-label products will be cheaper than existing brands of comparable high quality, but do not aim to be the cheapest choice on the shelves.

The prices sound very reasonable. For example, you can get Life shampoo, conditioner or liquid soap at NIS 9.99 for 500 ml., body lotion (perfumed or unperfumed) at NIS 14.99 for 400 ml., a box of 150 tissues for NIS 4.99, and toothbrushes at NIS 4.99 apiece.

All Life products are labeled in English and Hebrew. The plastic bottles of toiletries carry the notation: "No animal ingredients. Not tested on animals. Recyclable package." Super-Pharm accepts responsibility for the quality of all Life-label merchandise, and promises to return money to any customer who finds a Life product unsatisfactory.

The chain's management is presenting its private labeling as something revolutionary in Israel marketing practices, but this isn't quite the case.

The Blue Square Co-op has sold both food and non-food items under its own name for years. Shekem manufactures its own baked goods and meat products, for sale under the Shekem name. It also sells fashions under the private label Impulse and electrical goods under the name Jetpoint. Likewise, Hypershuk has some house brand items, particularly in frozen foods and dried fruits and nuts.

Only the Super-Sol/Hypercol chain has kept out of the private label business, in the belief that Israel has too small a market to support house brands alongside the national brands.

The Super-Pharm management argues that its new Life line breaks new ground because all the toiletries were specially formulated by Super-Pharm itself to suit its customers' needs.

If you have very good eyesight or a magnifying glass, you can see that they are manufactured for Super-Pharm at Novis in Kiryat Malachi.

On the other hand, the Life tissues are ordinary Hoga products under the private label, Super-Pharm admits.

Biscot of Rosh Ha'ayin, best-known as the producer of Sacra-zit sweetener.

So far, the Cool line consists of only three items - shampoo for normal hair, shampoo for dry hair and hair conditioner. The packaging is a cool-looking white and blue, and labeling is bilingual.

The price is an exceptionally modest NIS 5.99 for 500 ml., and the products are sold exclusively at the Hypershuk hypermarkets.

ST. MORITZ cleaning materials are effective products hiding behind labels so nondescript that most consumers never notice them. The brand name St. Moritz appears in Hebrew only. The sole words appearing in English are "Well Done," the name of the company, which is situated in Kiryat Bialik.

The products may be Well Done, but the packaging certainly is not. There is no common bottle shape, color scheme or emblem to help consumers recognize the company's four products - dishwashing liquid, oven cleaner, window cleaner and bath/sink cleaner.

The products all have Agudat Yisrael kosher approval as well as local kashrut supervision from the Acre Rabbinate.

I was most impressed with the grease remover for ovens ("ma-shrumanim kar"), which dissolves grease easily without any need to preheat the surface. It is a non-aerosol spray and does not fill the room with irritating fumes as do most oven cleaners. The price is NIS 13.50 for 750 ml.

Several warnings appear in small Hebrew print. The user must wear gloves. The color-fastness of the oven's interior surface should be tested in a hidden corner. The grease remover should not be used on the gas rings. Neither should it be used on aluminum, although it is recommended for stainless steel pots and pans.

Well Done's blue liquid for cleaning windows, mirrors and formica surfaces (called "silicone protector" in Hebrew letters) seems to clean glass surfaces without leaving streaks. It is said to impart a protective sheen which repels dust. The product costs NIS 8.90 for 750 ml.

The dishwashing liquid ("shampoo kelim") is also meant to leave a high gloss on dishes and glassware. Frankly, I forgot to notice. The scent was pleasantly mild, not overly perfumed. A liter sells for a modest NIS 7.50. I did not try the bathtub-and-sink

liquid called Antarctic. The implication is that it turns sanitary installations white as snow - without containing chlorine bleach, according to the press release.

What a cleaning product does contain is anyone's guess.

Unlike foods and cosmetics, cleaning materials are not required to list their ingredients on a label nor have approval from the Health Ministry. Antarctic costs NIS 8.40 for a full liter.

Well Done's products are best known in the north of the country, their home territory, and around Ashkelon and Ashdod. They are beginning to make headway at chain stores throughout the country, including Calpharm.

THERE IS precious little you can buy these days for NIS 1.40. One of the few is a good bar of soap.

The Shemen subsidiary Sod - today spelled Sod in English - has just come out with bars of perfumed cosmetic soap called Chick. In a 100-gram bar for NIS 1.40, Three colors of wrapper - black, blue and red - denote slightly different compositions.

The soaps carry the hehshver of the Eda Haredit, Jerusalem, as well as that of the Haifa Rabbinate.

A VERY easy-to-use cleaning product is One Step, from the Johnson Wax company in the UK.

It is a sponge which gives an instant shine to any leather or synthetic leather shoe of any color, without a need for shoe polish each time. It is recommended to apply polish occasionally. New shoes must be polished at least once before using the magic sponge.

Some light-colored footwear may be slightly darkened by One Step, so it is suggested to test the sponge in an unobtrusive area before doing a full brushing.

One Step is good for 100 shines, and comes in its own storage box. It can also be used on belts, wallets and handbags.

The price is NIS 6.95.

IF YOU really want your bathroom floors to shine, you can install underfloor lighting, thanks to the Regba kitchens-and-bathrooms company.

The lights are covered with a flooring of glass bricks. The lighting can be brightened or dimmed at will.

A glass brick floor with recessed lighting costs NIS 1,000 per square meter. Regba notes that the glass bricks with their hidden fixtures will raise the height of the floor by 10 centimeters.



Super-Pharm's new house brand of toiletries includes 15 different products.

BARGAIN BASEMENT

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TAPES - new Neil Young, wheels, NIS 100. 02-512446.

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MEN'S JOGGING SUIT - plum colored, size 2X, waist 46-48, 65% polyester, 35% cotton, NIS 240. 02-258297.

HIRSCH - Judaism Eternal, 2 vol., out of print, NIS 150; Bercishit Artscroll, NIS 25 each volume. 02-860502.

CAR STEREO - Radio Shack, AM/FM, tape needs repair, NIS 150 o.b.o. 02-511947, NS.

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MEN'S COAT - London Fog, beige, fully-lined, size 40 long, zip-out lining, NIS 270. 02-437048, NS.

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SET OF 16 STAMPS - used, free for collector. Rivka, 02-434314, NS.

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WOMAN'S RACING BIKE - 12-speed, NIS 200; boys' pajamas, size 14, flannel; white dress; shirts size 7. NIS 10-NIS 15 each. 02-724804, NS.

SACHS BED WARMER - for double bed, NIS 90. 02-751509.

TV TABLE ON WHEELS - 79x40 cm, NIS 80; kerosene heater, good condition, NIS 75; tools plus extras, NIS 50. 02-702911.

EXERCISE AND DIET VIDEO - plus diet chart, "Raquel," NIS 30. 02-511814, NS.

2 PAIRS OF JEANS - new, 34x32 and 34x34, NIS 100 each; girls' new LA Gear, US size 13, NIS 100. 02-712546, NS.

WOMEN'S SHEEPSKIN COAT - full-length, NIS 200; electric shower unit, new, NIS 100. 02-737593.

LOUNGE SUITE - 5 chairs, very good condition, NIS 300. 02-702839.

TRUNDLE BED - American, high-riser with mattress, 2nd pallet, NIS 200 o.b.o.; mattress and pallet, NIS 100 o.b.o. 02-354586, NS.

2 LADIES' WINTER COATS - size 14-16, dark gray, navy blue, almost new, NIS 150 each. 02-384171, NS.

MEN'S SUIT - new, gray, polyester/wool, size US 44 long/European 54. 02-423563, NS.

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The Ba-Gad outrage

EVERY parliament must suffer fools, flakes and freaks. The Knesset is no exception. MK Yosef Ba-Gad (Moledet) reminded Israelis on Tuesday that there are no limits to human folly, and that those who wave the flag of patriotism must vigorously be often the greatest threats to public safety.

With total disregard for the concerns of soldiers' families, Ba-Gad recklessly, irresponsibly and callously announced on the Knesset podium, before television cameras, that a soldier had been kidnapped, that the government was negotiating with Hamas for his release, and that the media were guilty of a cover-up of the affair.

Fortunately, the whole story was groundless. Had it been true, the consequences of Ba-Gad's action could have been tragic: by breaking an official silence he could have endangered a life. As it happened, the rumor, based on a hoax, was promptly denied by the army and the harm was limited "only" to the anguish endured by worried soldiers' families.

It is a measure of Ba-Gad's mentality that he seemed unable to understand the gravity of his unprecedented transgression. It took the outrage of members of all parties to make him apologize. Wisely, Knesset chairman Shevah Weiss rejected his apology.

But, to their chagrin, Knesset members discovered that there was little they could do to discipline him. Removing his immunity, as some have suggested, would cause more damage than he had done. There are, to be sure, acts by Knesset members which are now protected by immunity rules for no good reason. But if there is one thing which should have total protection from prosecution it is the Knesset members' prerogative to speak freely in the meetings of the House. At most, the Knesset may be able to penalize Ba-Gad by barring him

from the plenum floor for a period.

Ba-Gad is not, of course, the first MK to commit a crime. Nor is his crime the gravest in legal terms. What makes his conduct more offensive than the bribe-taking, embezzlement, cheating and disloyalty other MKs have been guilty of is that he behaves like an irresponsible, publicity-seeking clown while purporting to be a patriot.

His Tuesday stunt was by no means his first excursion into gaga land. Only last month, following the ax-murder of Liat Gabai in Afula, he planned to wave an ax soaked in ketchup on the Knesset podium. It was only the timely discovery of the plan and the chairman's stern warnings that dissuaded him. The feeling in the Knesset is that he is a disgrace, that his presence among the nation's representatives is a travesty.

Yet the lesson to be learned from the Ba-Gad phenomenon is not that some members play with less than a full deck. It is that there must be a change in the way Knesset members are elected. The recent defection of three members of the Tsomet party points to the same problem. Neither they nor Ba-Gad were elected directly by the voters. They were unknown, meaningless names on lists headed by recognized political figures, who entered the Knesset not on their own merit but strictly on the coattails of their leaders.

By contrast, the Labor party chose its Knesset lists through primary elections, with much more respectable results. And the Likud will probably emulate the primary system before the next election. But while there is nothing wrong with primaries, the only way to assure responsibility and accountability of Knesset members is to have them elected directly by constituencies. This does not guarantee against fools and flakes, but it does make the chances of their re-election slim.

Bogged down

FIVE new members of the UN Security Council took their seats at the first meeting of the year yesterday - Germany, Italy, Honduras, Indonesia, and Botswana. It would be nice to think that an infusion of new blood would augur well for the world's only true global forum as it prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary - but alas not.

When Egypt's Boutros Boutros-Ghali became secretary-general three years ago, he promised big reforms and a major overhaul to refit the organization for its role in the post-Soviet world. The promise so far is unfulfilled - not that the secretary-general is entirely to blame, given the explosion in commitments the UN has shouldered since he took office.

The organization is almost unique in having all its enemies within. There is scarcely a country in the world - with the possible exception of Iraq - that is in serious direct conflict with the United Nations. Boutros-Ghali's real enemies are the entrenched officials, time-servers, and money-wasters who litter the endless corridors of UN headquarters, certain of everlasting pay and inevitable promotion no matter how incompetent they are.

In a recent appearance on CNN, Boutros-Ghali complained that the UN gets little credit for its successes and for expanding its operations at a colossal rate on tight budgets over the past five years. He cited the pacification of Cambodia and Mozambique, the 20 years of peace in Cyprus, and the humanitarian aid that saved millions in Somalia, Rwanda, and the former Yugoslavia. It is understandable that he

feels frustrated by constant media harping on the military debacle in Somalia and Bosnia. But the point remains that this huge world organization exists with the consensus of its members for only one purpose - to succeed.

So, despite some successes, it has been failing in creating a safer, more secure world. It is not criticism which is hurting the United Nations, it is a crisis of confidence. The organization should be able to shoulder some failures and still maintain its credibility. But when it is treated with open scorn in Angola, Somalia, or Bosnia and has no effective answer, then the faith of other members, who one day may have to call on it for help, is seriously undermined. As if it didn't have enough of a credibility problem, new wolves will be snapping at the heels of the bureaucrats this year, as the Republicans' new broom swishes through Congress. The new chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Jesse Helms, is a sworn enemy of UN waste, accusing the organization of costing American taxpayers billions.

While whining Third World states complain equally of US dominance and US cynicism in the UN, they forget that America pays 25 percent of the UN's budget and 30 percent of its peacekeeping costs - a grand total of some \$2 billion last year. Who has a greater right to ask serious questions than the US taxpayer?

Waste and bureaucracy will be the dirty words of the UN's 50th year - and that swishing sound on Capitol Hill is also the sound of time running out for those who practice them at UN headquarters.



Needs of a tough job

LISTENING patiently to a glowing report about a freshly created army commander who was "intelligent, brilliantly inventive, and a military genius," Napoleon replied: "Yes. Yes. But is he lucky?"

With one exception, Israel has been blessed with chiefs of staff who have always been "lucky" and made a name for themselves in fighting terror.

David Elazar made history in May 1972, when his special unit, the *sayeret matkal*, stormed a hijacked Belgian airliner at Ben-Gurion Airport, for the first time ever in the annals of aviation. The passengers were saved and the terrorists captured or killed.

In 1976, his successor Mordechai Gur was in charge of the Entebbe Operation, which caught the world's imagination. Then there was Rafael Eitan, who will always be remembered as the man who expelled Yasser Arafat and 10,000 PLO terrorists from Beirut in 1982.

Moshe Levy pinpointed Arafat's headquarters in Tunisia and destroyed it in an air raid in October 1985. And even that very cautious chief of staff Dan Shomron was catapulted to fame in 1988, when, according to foreign reports, he sent a special unit to "eliminate" Arafat's number two, Abu Jihad, at his Tunisian home.

All these chiefs of staff had audacious operations linked to their names. Were they simply lucky?

Napoleon didn't believe in pure luck. He said that a general makes his own luck by daring to do the impossible and by focusing every ounce of energy on the job in hand: being a general. Being macho, witty and an eloquent speaker came very low on Napoleon's list of military skills.

EHUD BARAK, who retired this week from his job as army chief, has no memorable or lightning-style operation to mark his 45 months as chief of staff. He seems to have been unlucky. During his tenure, the army has suffered one foul-up after another.

Senior officers are critical of the fact that Barak didn't handle the problem of the heavy casualties suffered in Lebanon. Morale there is low, no doubt because the un-Israeli "Maginot line" static defense turned the soldiers into sitting ducks, as happened

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

when the position at Tel Dabsha was attacked by mortar fire last November.

Then there was the humiliation of Israeli soldiers turning and running - under orders - in Gaza. And the shameful way in which soldiers were ill-protected at Netzarim, so as not to upset Arafat.

In November 1992, there was the disastrous training accident which resulted in the deaths of five soldiers belonging to a crack unit at Tze'elim B. This was followed, nearly two years later, by the failure of a special-operations

Barak didn't put everything he had into being chief of staff. Hopefully, Shahak will

unit to free Corporal Nahshon Wachman from his kidnappers.

There is no question that Barak was a brilliant soldier and commander of small, crack units. On one occasion he dressed up as a woman and stormed the homes of Arafat's terrorist chiefs in the heart of Beirut. Indeed, he led the *sayeret matkal* unit which successfully stormed the Belgian airliner in 1972.

SO WHAT happened when he became chief of staff?

Barak never made a secret of his political ambitions. Naturally photogenic, he never missed an opportunity to speak on TV, enchanting viewers with his smile. The hint of steel in his voice made everyone feel that the defense of the country was in safe hands.

Barak was not the first army chief to nurture ambitions to become prime minister. Moshe Dayan certainly did. But Barak forgot Dayan's dictum: "A chief of staff must treat his job as though it is last thing he will ever do in his life - in other words, ensure that the Jewish army is always ready to defend Israel."

Barak gave the impression of being only too eager to step into Yitzhak Rabin's shoes as the next Labor Party leader. His mind didn't always seem to be on his work at army headquarters.

One of his last tasks in Decem-

ber was to meet the Syrian chief of staff in Washington to discuss details of withdrawing from the Golan Heights, which will inevitably lead to the dismantling of Israeli settlements there.

No wonder there has been intense speculation among Israeli journalists about whether Barak will follow Rabin in two years' time (or six years' time) as prime minister.

Barak's smooth description of how he has left the army in the very best shape for the 21st century sounded impressive on TV. The emphasis on his concept of *hamam* (specialist, sophisticated remote-control weapons) has a reassuring "Star Wars" feel about it. But as this week's focus on the Agranat Commission report reminded us, war can be a lot nearer than we think.

Weren't the Americans similarly confident about their Tomahawk and other monitor-guided weapons and futuristic radar-resistant bombers at the beginning of the Gulf War? In the end, that war was won by armored and mechanized formations slogging it out in the old-fashioned way.

If Barak looked pleased with himself at the inauguration ceremony of his successor Amnon Shahak, the grave demeanor of the new chief of staff was more eloquent than a thousand words.

Shahak knows that wars aren't won by smart bombs, but by motivated soldiers and professional officers who have learned the lessons of our past. They are won by officers who have their minds on the job and concentrate on training their units in the basics, coordinating land operations in which helicopters lift soldiers and vehicles into key points on a battlefield. They are won by officers who do not indulge in self-serving PR exercises, and reject the role of the defense minister's puppet.

Perhaps Barak's sophisticated dream weapons will materialize. But first the army's motivation has to be restored.

Last week, the army issued a manifesto which spoke proudly about the fighting spirit of Israeli soldiers. Shahak's main task will be to renew the IDF's badly eroded deterrence capability.

It's a tough job. Hopefully, he will prove equal to the task.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

Global need

STEPHEN SCHLESINGER

ANXIOUS voices are crying that the UN is ineffectual.

It can't deal with international crises, they say. The most visible failure this time is Bosnia, to which the organization has dispatched more than 22,000 peace-keeping troops over four years and yet has not stopped the carnage.

Does this mean that the UN is so ineffectual that it should be abolished or replaced?

Not necessarily. The UN's ostensible mistakes are more in the minds of the critics than in reality.

While an imperfect body, the UN has functioned far better over the years, under the most difficult of circumstances, than its critics ever could have imagined. It is still around after a half-century. However, its role must be clarified.

The UN was never designed to act as a world government. The organization, which grew out of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's World War II vision, was to secure peace around the globe by means of an activist 11-member Security Council. Its five permanent members - the US, Britain, the Soviet Union, China and France - the major victors over the Axis forces - had the right to veto UN actions. FDR thus married the universal yearning for tranquility to realpolitik.

In so doing, he avoided the paralysis of the old League of Nations, which had given everyone on its larger Executive Council the veto.

The UN has done better than its critics ever imagined

But the UN was stymied from the outset by the Cold War, which drastically reduced the Security Council's role. With the US and the Soviet Union at loggerheads, the UN could seldom act.

Still, even as a debating forum, the UN did cool tensions during this long period and may have prevented several disputes from sliding into nuclear war. Further, it saved South Korea, helped police the 1956 Suez Canal settlement, enforced an embargo on South Africa and kept the idea of human rights alive.

WITH THE Cold War ended, people expected to see a revived and masterful UN, and are sorely disappointed. They are wishing for an organization that can never be.

While the UN can strongly condemn bloodshed wherever it happens, it cannot police the world without the agreement of the Security Council's major players, as well as the acquiescence of the warring parties. How often is that attainable?

Yet, even in face of this institutional impediment, look at what the UN has accomplished since the fall of the Berlin Wall:

It has arranged for democratic elections in Namibia, Cambodia and Mozambique - the latter two blood-soaked lands that no one ever suspected could handle a free vote.

It gave its blessings to US intervention in Haiti, helping restore democracy in that benighted nation. It tossed Iraq out of Kuwait.

Admittedly it hasn't yet resolved tribal wars in Somalia, Rwanda or Yugoslavia; but why do we expect the UN to settle in just a few years what the ethnic powers there haven't resolved in centuries?

The UN is a long-term proposition. It's a body that will inevitably mature over time. It makes mistakes (such as the anti-Zionist resolution) but corrects them, hasn't yet learned to pick and choose its trouble spots realistically, needs Germany and Japan in the Security Council and probably requires a volunteer army to put out small fires.

But it has grown in stature. Every nation in the world clamors to be in it and regards it as an honor to speak before it; most contribute soldiers to its ever-expanding missions and finance its upkeep.

The UN may twist and turn through disaster, upheaval and triumph, but it survives and endures because it fills a global need that nobody else does.

(Newsday)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ILL-CONCEIVED POLICIES

Sir, - In your front-page report of November 23, OC Southern Command General Mofaz clearly states that the inability of the army to adequately defend itself at the Netzarim junction and dozens of other sites in Gaza is due to deficiencies in the Cairo agreement with the Palestinians. General Mofaz specifically mentions that the IDF is prohibited from fortifying positions and from stopping Arab traffic for random checks.

In light of these statements, it is logical to assume that the recent tragic loss of Israeli lives is directly attributable to our prime/defense minister who accepted this flawed arrangement and continues its blind implementation regardless of the consequences. The Palestinians persist in actively violating signed agreements while the IDF scrupulously adheres to the fine points at the cost of lives. Perhaps it is time for our prime/defense minister to accept the responsibility for his ill-conceived policies and their ultimate failure.

EARL C. HAROW, M.D.

Efrat.

HEBREW NEWS ON JORDAN TV

Sir, - On November 18, the American English-language daily, *The Jordan Times*, carried a story, "An overhaul for Hebrew news," explaining that in one of his first major moves since assuming his post as JTV director, Nasser Judeh temporarily took the Hebrew news broadcasts off the air. He explained he would like to upgrade the service, and place it back on the air early next year.

The station, according to the newspaper story, has received a significant number of comments critical of the state of Hebrew news. One JTV producer said the problem centered on language: "Our reporters have been using Hebrew of the early 20th century, which, with the influx of other ethnic Jews to Israel, has altered the modern-day usage of the ancient language." Also contemplated is the recruiting of Arab Israelis as well as retraining of staff. Another source claimed that an old Israeli survey determined only a handful of television viewers in Israel watched Jordan's Hebrew broadcasts.

MELVIN FENSON
Jerusalem.

U.S. TROOPS ON THE GOLAN

Sir, - United States Middle East negotiator Dennis Ross is misleading the American Jewish community and the American public by insinuating that opposing Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the stationing of US troops as a security guarantee is supported solely by right-wing groups. The Golan is, in fact, an apolitical issue; that is why support for the Golan transcends political, religious and philosophical divisions both here and throughout the international community.

Well-known and respected journalists across America have written articles against the stationing of US troops on the Golan Heights. They recognize that foreign troops, no matter who they are, cannot be relied upon to defend and secure another country. They are astute enough to point out the particular strain it would put on future US-Israel relations if such an agreement were ever to materialize.

We are alarmed that Mr. Ross would misinform the American public in this way.

MARLA VAN METER,
English Spokesperson,
Golan Residents' Committee
Katzrin.

POSTSCRIPTS

WHY ARE businesses at Dhaka's National Stadium threatening to close?

New taxes? Extortion? Recession?

No. They can't stop spectators from urinating on their customers from atop the stadium during its many soccer matches.

"It is disgusting. They urinate on shoppers from atop the stadium as if it's raining," said Hassan-uzzaman Moni, whose electronics store is directly beneath.

The six-storey-high arena holds 80,000 people and many stores, but it was built without public toilets in 1960.

Abdur Rahim, whose store sells saris, complained that "we can't catch the offenders, and we are losing customers."

An official at the National Sports Council, the Bangladeshi organization that runs the arena, blushed when asked about the problem. "Don't ask me any-

thing. We will try to see how the nuisance can be stopped," he said.

Urination is a common sight in Bangladesh. Men in Dhaka, a city of seven million, routinely relieve themselves against bushes and walls.

RUBBER GLOVES are being given to Fort Lauderdale bus drivers afraid of catching AIDS or other diseases from riders' transfer slips.

Some drivers had complained about occasionally handling transfers with blood and saliva on them. Some have refused to handle the paper transfers, telling riders to put them in a basket instead.

The drivers said their risk is higher than average because they handle up to 400 transfers a shift. "Some people have the transfers in their mouths, they have them down their pants or in their

bras," one driver said. "You don't want to think about where they've had them."

FLATULENCE IS healthy.

Yes, folks, the Netherlands Liver and Intestine Foundation - bet you didn't know there was such a thing - said breaking wind 15 times a day helped to expel digestive gas which would otherwise cause discomfort. They did not divulge by what method they compiled this data.

The foundation, which funds research and educates the public about digestive problems, said one in five people had problems with their bowel movements but that many people were too embarrassed to discuss the problem with their doctor.

It said it was launching a taboo-breaking publicity campaign to try to clear the air.

Watch this space for further developments.

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Single woman turns scarlet at the 'V' word

DEAR RUTHIE

RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,
I am 28 years old and considered very attractive. I even seem to be considered provocative. But I have a problem which is so embarrassing I haven't been able to reveal it to anyone.

I am still a virgin. The irony is that I am less afraid of losing my virginity than I am of telling a man the truth. As a result, I always break off contact with men as soon as anything physical begins. This is usually on the second date, if not at the end of the first. I want to get married and have a family, but I can't get past the second date. I don't see how I am ever going to find a husband.

Chastised for Chastity
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Chastised,
How ironic that a "V" should replace the scarlet "A."

Your shame is self-imposed. Perhaps sex frightens you more than you imagine. Fear of breaking silence about your "secret" has been serving as a kind of shield against men.

Counseling might help you examine why you need to be shielded. It may have something to do with thinking of yourself as "provocative," for example.

In any case, there is nothing wrong with being a virgin - even in this day and age. Truly believing this would release you. For one thing, you would not feel you have to make a run for it at the prospect of having a man try to seduce you.

And there is no law that says you have to announce your virginity before losing it.

Dear Ruthie,
The mother of my son's best friend is a teacher. The trouble is that she is my daughter's teacher. My daughter doesn't like her, and

feels she is not doing well in class. I come in a great deal of social contact with her, and my daughter is suffering from it. My daughter has forbidden me to discuss her feelings with her teacher. I do not want to lose my friend, but I must consider my daughter's feelings. What should I do?

Muddled Mom
Ramat Gan

Dear MM,
Ask to have your daughter transferred to another class. After consulting with her first, of course.

Dear Ruthie,
Every week or so, another classmate of our eight-year-old daughter has a birthday party. This may sound extreme, but I find it absurd to have to add large sums to our monthly budget for this purpose. My wife buys quite expensive items (in my opinion) for each child in the class.

Is this absolutely necessary?
Birthday Worth Worrier
Jerusalem

Dear Worth-day Worrier,
It's not necessary to go broke to supply your daughter's classmates with expensive gifts. In fact, it can be harmful to do so, since other parents are apt to feel they must respond in kind. This sets trends nobody wants, as well as unhealthy expectations on the part of the children.

Since extravagance is often a solution to the problem of choosing the "right" thing, ask your daughter to do the selecting within the price range you set. She is far more likely to hit the mark than either you or your wife.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)

BOOKS

RICHARD EDER

THE BLACK BOOK by Orhan Pamuk, translated from Turkish by Gurel Gun. Farrar, Straus & Giroux. \$25. 400 pp.

IN *The Black Book*, Orhan Pamuk's braided mysteries coil around the story of a plodding husband who searches for his restless wife through Istanbul's serpentine streets and historical memory.

For Pamuk, author of the warmly praised *The White Castle*, the city is a suffocating midden of 2,000 years of temporary victories and permanent defeat. Pamuk writes of the defeat. His philosophical detective story is, in fact, an evocation of the crippled consciousness and destructive reflexes of his fellow Turks: heirs of a traditional Eastern society, and engaged for three-quarters of a century in a Westernizing project that still has not taken root.

"In the land of the defeated and oppressed, to be is to be someone else," asserts one of the many figures - at once enigmatic and hysterically overwrought - whom the husband, Galip, encounters on his weeklong quest. It is the underlying theme of a book of disguises and transformations. Personal identity is unattainable when a nation's identity has been lost, and in neither case - so goes Pamuk's menacing comedy - can it be recovered.

Elaborated with a dizzying wealth of discursiveness, distraction and literary baiting and switching, it often bogs down under its own abundance. It will dazzle and then, with an effect akin to snow-blindness, it goes indistinct. It disappears into its own virtuosity and reappears. It remains distant from the reader like someone who talks fast and well and doesn't look you in the eye, and suddenly, with disconcerting effect, looks you in the eye. It is a trying book, and worth trying.

Galip's quest is partly human and mostly allegorical. He is an undistinguished lawyer desperately in love with Ruya, his long-haired, long-legged cousin and wife, who spends the day reading detective novels. We never see her and yet - an example of Pamuk's gifted elusiveness - she is vivid and oddly lovable.

She vanishes suddenly, leaving a 19-word note in green ink. We are told only nine of the words - an example of Pamuk's exasperating elusiveness - but we are made to understand that she has gone off with her half-brother Jelal, to whom she has always been attracted. Galip comically hides the disappearance from his family. When his aunt phones he makes footstep noises to signal that he has gone to fetch her and



Istanbul, like Orhan Pamuk's novel that evokes it, is maddeningly serpentine and layered. A city - and a book - of disguises and transformations. (Yusef Hadad/World Bank)



Pamuk: Personal identity is unattainable when a nation's identity has been lost.

fact, a Turkish identity. Wandering through the city he visits two of Jelal's colleagues, each with his own mania. They question him fiercely, intrusively and outlandishly. Galip is like Lewis Carroll's Alice undergoing impertinent questions from the likes of the Caterpillar and the Red Queen.

He visits Ruya's first husband, an intellectual who makes a point of living like a provincial middle-class Turk.

He visits the premises of a failed mannequin artist who had insisted on portraying authentically Turkish figures - bow-legged, short, mustached - instead of the blond anonymous elegance required by Westernized commerce.

To be oneself, to reject outside influences: a national obsession that, for Pamuk, leads nowhere. He writes an allegory of a prince who sets his people an example by excluding anything that might dilute his own authenticity. He gets rid of his books (though then, finding his mind empty, he brings a few back). He gets rid of paintings, furniture, his wife. Not wishing to be influenced by memories, he banishes smells and music. Finally he dies in a room painted white, its only furniture a white piano. His last words are: "Nothing at all."

Galip, however, illustrates an opposite national obsession. He wants only to be someone else; he wants only to be the powerful and glamorous Jelal, free of narrow Turkish prejudices. He wants above all to have the power that Jelal wields: to control the universe by writing about it. By the end, he has to all intents and purposes become Jelal.

The real Jelal shows signs of abdicating his power and seeking something more authentic.

What that will be, this intriguing, overnourished and maddeningly private attempt at a public novel doesn't say. (Los Angeles Times)

US to charge applicants for nonimmigrant visas

TRAVEL TIPS

HAIM SHAPIRO

APPLICANTS in Israel for nonimmigrant visas to the US will have to pay a \$20 application fee from January 23.

According to US press attaché Richard Scorza, the fee is to cover the costs of new computerized technology for processing and issuing visas, which should speed up entry for visitors to the US, he says.

The fee is the same regardless of the duration of the visa, or the number of entries permitted, and is not returned if the application is denied.

In Tel Aviv, the fee must be paid by a bank draft, while in Jerusalem it is payable in cash at the consulate. Exempted from the fee are those traveling to the US under the Visa Waiver Pilot Program and those applying for diplomatic visas, as well as applications from recognized international organizations and NATO.

LONDON PLUS, a package which includes a visit to London and another European destination, is being offered by Natour.

The \$485 price includes a round-trip flight to London, two nights at a hotel with breakfast in London and another round-trip flight from London to Amsterdam, Brussels, Lyon, Marseilles, Nice, Frankfurt or Copenhagen.

A PACKAGE TOUR of Tunisia for Israelis is being organized by Yossi Tours. The seven-night package, which includes one night in Rome, sells for \$446, plus \$519 for a group-fare, round-

trip flight. The company also arranges for visas and hotel accommodation for those going to Tunisia on their own.

SOL LIMOUSINES now offers transport between Tiberias hotels and the center of the country.

The price is \$20 per passenger to or from Ben-Gurion Airport, greater Tel Aviv or Netanya, and \$25 to or from Jerusalem.

The airport service is offered 24 hours a day, and limousine drivers will meet passengers in the arrivals hall. Reservations may be made through travel agents or hotels in Tiberias.

AIR ZIMBABWE is now represented in Israel by Clal Aviation, its general sales agent in this country.

The Zimbabwe national airline has flights to London, Frankfurt, Larnaca and Sydney, as well as flights within Africa and Zimbabwe itself.

THE METROPOLITAN Hotel in Tel Aviv, the former Sinai Hotel, recently reopened after renovations. It now has a club for businessmen who use the hotel regularly.

The nightly rate for members of the club is \$70 for a single and \$85 for a double, with a \$20 surcharge for a suite.

Other special services include a daily newspaper, a wake-up drink and early check-in and late check-out for no extra charge, on the basis of availability. The hotel also offers secretarial services for a fee.

New US airport waiting game: Shop till you drop

TRAVEL

GREG JOHNSON

CAN'T get enough of shopping while visiting the US? Now you can shop till you drop even while waiting to board your plane.

And you might even fortify yourself with an edible snack or meal at a reasonable price.

Changes in airports are being driven by the growing realization that travelers generally have both time and money on their hands. This combination is "the magic formula for retailing," according to Monica Nassif, a spokeswoman for Miami-based Sun Glass Hut, which operates 11 stores at airports.

Airport executives and retailers say that truly competitive pricing is the key to success.

Pittsburgh's innovative "air mall" is the acknowledged leader in airport retail operations. The two-year-old terminal is home to more than 80 restaurants and retail shops, including TGI Fridays, Nature Company, the Body Shop and Sun Glass Hut.

Pittsburgh officials offer a simple measure of the mall's success: Sales per boarded passenger have soared to nearly \$7, up from just \$2.40 per visit before the new airport terminal opened.

Pittsburgh's successful experiment with "street pricing" has prompted the Dallas-Fort Worth airport and others to adopt rules that require retailers and restaurants to charge prices equivalent to those at off-airport sites. But Los Angeles International Airport is instead banking on competition to keep prices low when its new culinary lineup is completed this year.

THE DALLAS-Fort Worth airport is sorting through a shortlist of 150 companies that want to operate restaurants and shops at the Texas airport. One concessionaire has already opened a small retail court featuring the best of Sharper Image, Christian Dior and Timberland.

Some older airports will not easily lend themselves to in-

creased retail operations. Pittsburgh's new terminal owes much of its success to its design: Passengers are funneled through its centrally located mall, an option that's typically not available to older airports.

And airports must tackle the thorny question of leasing costs before opting for street pricing. If lease rates are too high, product prices often follow.

WHAT IS attracting retailers and restaurants to airports is that travelers generally have money. Host Marriott in Bethesda, Maryland, which operates in nearly 80 airports, reports that

the average traveler spends about an hour in airports before and after flights. That traveler's \$65,000 average annual income exceeds the average mall-goer's.

"It's a captive audience in the true sense of the word," said Bruce Schroder, a vice president at Taco Bell, based in Irvine, California, which operates restaurants and snack bars in about 40 airports.

"And travelers tend to be higher-income people for whom price is not as much of an issue."

While McDonald's, Taco Bell and Burger King are more common at airports, operators now are seasoning the restaurant mix with regional favorites. Boston's Logan Airport features Legal Seafoods, and Host Marriott has invited Wild Goose Ale House, a popular brew pub in the North-

west, to operate restaurants on the East Coast.

The latest wave in restaurant and retail development has debunked the "old theory that [travelers] will buy whatever it was you decided to put on the shelves," Paradies said.

Sharper Image's airport shop at DFW in Dallas has sold a handful of massage chairs - hefty pieces of furniture that retail for \$2,895.

Despite the flurry of activity nationwide, croissants and designer yogurt are the exception rather than the rule, particularly at smaller airports.

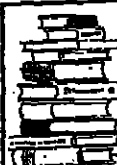
"The cafeteria line is still the most common approach," said Tarun Kapoor, a professor at California Polytechnic Institute who studies the hospitality industry. (Los Angeles Times)

To Our Readers

Some of the advertisements appearing in our papers are type set outside The Post. When such an advertisement arrives just before the publication deadline, especially when it is provided in the form of a film, it is difficult for us to correct any spelling mistakes that may appear.

While we make every effort to correct such errors, we must ask our readers' indulgence for those occasions when this is not possible.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1995

Bank Hapoalim branch accused of deceiving client

A BANK Hapoalim branch in Ashkelon acted in bad faith, made false representations and deceived one of its clients, according to a NIS 70,000 claim filed against it in the Tel Aviv Magistrates Court yesterday.

The claim, filed on behalf of an Ashkelon resident by Tel Aviv attorney Doron Marom, alleges that in October 1993 the plaintiff approached the bank - in which he had savings of some NIS 25,000 - seeking a loan of NIS 60,000 with which to buy a plot of land to build a home.

The bank refused the loan application on the grounds that the applicant's security was inadequate. However, the bank pro-

posed an unsecured loan of NIS 100,000 to buy Bank Hapoalim mutual funds, which the bank said would make adequate security for making the loan.

The suit alleges that the bank clerk who initiated the transactions was neither qualified nor authorized to give securities-related advice; that the transaction was designed solely to increase the bank's profits at the expense of the customer through the commissions and other income it generated; and that it was initiated and took place after Hapoalim's central management had issued a directive to the bank's branches

to halt lending for securities purchases.

The suit said the transaction initiated by the bank resulted in a loan package with worse security than that originally sought by the plaintiff.

The suit also alleges that the branch manager endeavored to ensure a high level of securities activity in clients' accounts to maximize the branch's commission income. According to the claim, the plaintiff's loss of capital was NIS 42,000.

A Bank Hapoalim spokesman declined to comment on the claim last night, saying the bank would study it and respond in due course.

Budget deficit 1% less than planned

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE 1994 budget deficit stood at NIS 4.6 billion, or at two percent of the Gross Domestic Product, 1% less than originally planned, Deputy Accountant-General Avisar Cohen reported yesterday.

Higher than expected tax reve-

nues were the major cause for the drop in red ink.

Tax receipts were NIS 4.5b. greater than originally estimated. Expenditures last year were NIS 90.5b., while revenues to-

taled NIS 86.3b.

The government's net borrowing to finance the deficit was negative, with the Treasury paying out NIS 600 million more than it borrowed.

The budget originally assumed net borrowing to increase by NIS 1.2b.

A weak stock market caused revenues from the sale of government companies to register only NIS 700m., instead of the budgeted NIS 2.3b.

Mutual funds' total assets plunge 49%

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

MUTUAL funds' total assets were cut in half last year after they suffered record high redemptions of NIS 11 billion and lost NIS 7.2b. due to the drop in the market value of their assets, the Meitav consultancy company reported yesterday.

Mutual fund assets plunged 49% to NIS 18.86b. from NIS 37.1b., and the funds' negative real yields were 21.8%.

"The contraction of the mutual fund market has reduced it to the size it was at the end of 1991," said Meitav.

The company blamed the fall in assets mainly on the sharp drop in prices of securities on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Part of the money taken out of the mutual fund industry last year was used to repay credit the public took from the banks specifically to finance the purchase of mutual fund certificates, Meitav said. Mutual funds specializing in shares suffered redemptions of NIS 3.89b., while the more conservative bond-specializing funds suffered redemptions of

NIS 1.92b. last year.

The foreign currency funds suffered redemptions of NIS 1.76b., while the flexible funds had redemptions of NIS 1.73b. and government bond funds registered redemptions of NIS 960m.

The mixed and other funds registered total redemptions of NIS 760m.

Meitav said 29 new funds were established last year, increasing the total funds operating on the market to 291. Meitav said half the new funds specialize in investment in shares.

The firm said private brokers' share of the mutual fund market increased to 12.2% from 10.3% last year at the expense of the banks. Bank Leumi's share of the market also increased, to 33.9% from 33.5%.

Bank Hapoalim's share fell to 30.5% from 30.7%, while Bank Discount's share dropped to 11.5% from 12.8%.

United Mizrahi Bank's share fell to 5.3% from 6%, while First International Bank's share decreased to 6.6% from 6.7%.

Dollar surpasses 101 yen for first time since August

LONDON (Reuters) - The dollar clung to a four-month high against the yen yesterday as an early rally by the US currency fizzled out and analysts said more convincing US data and a rise against the mark were needed to push it higher.

The dollar dug in its heels around 101.30 yen in European late trading after breaking through 101 yen for the first time since August in the Far East.

But the dollar firmed in US trading to test a key resistance level of 1.5625 marks.

"There is a lot of talk that the dollar/yen may be set for a move towards 105, but after all that may be a bit overdone," said Ian Gunner, a

London-based international economist at Chase Investment Bank.

The dollar needs to breach 1.58 marks - the high before a rollercoaster session at the end of 1994 - for it to move above a long-term trendline near 101.70 yen, analysts said.

Expectations have grown of a possible U.S. interest rate rise to control inflation when the central bank's Federal Open Market Committee begins a three-day meeting on January 31 after US economic data released on Tuesday pointed to rising prices.

A US employment report tomorrow will be crucial in setting the market's tone ahead of the meeting.

Agrexco stops importing tomatoes

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

AGREXCO has stopped importing tomatoes following a drop in market prices, the Agriculture Ministry reported yesterday.

Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur said Agrexco imports have solved the vegetable crisis, with the last shipment of 400 tons of tomatoes arriving yesterday.

He said the import of apples will continue for another three months, blaming the problem on a shortage of crops last summer.

Tsur said import of apples and pears is more effective than vegetable imports, because it is easier to store fruit in cold storages and release it on the market at times of high demand.

"One of the lessons from the recent vegetable crisis is that the free market, through imports, cannot be the only regulating instrument in preventing a shortage of agricultural produce," said Tsur. "Only Agrexco's massive imports pushed down prices."

In other news, Water Commissioner Gideon Tsur yesterday said the country's water reservoirs are sufficient for two years. "The large quantity of rain in the first half of the winter significantly contributed to the water situation," Tsur said.

However, the Agriculture Ministry expects the country to suffer from a water shortage in 15 years.

Las Vegas casino owner seeks opportunities in Cyprus

HAIM SHAPIRO

SHELDON Adelson, owner of the world's largest privately-owned convention center and one of the contenders for a license to operate a casino in Eilat, was due to leave today for Cyprus to investigate opportunities for operating a casino there.

Adelson - owner of the Sands Hotel, casino, and exposition and convention center in Las Vegas - warned that Cyprus would soon have casinos, and Taba also has plans for additional ones.

"The Israelis have to open casinos before it's too late," he said in an interview yesterday.

Accompanying him was Moshe Hananel, director of Galilee Tours, which is associated with a US travel company also owned by Adelson. Hananel warned that five-star hotels in Eilat are



Sheldon Adelson: One of the contenders for a license to operate a casino in Eilat.

facing an occupancy rate of only 40 percent for January.

In two or three years, Hananel added that Eilat is to have 12,000 rooms, but the German and

Scandinavian charter passengers who make up the bulk of Eilat's winter tourists are a three- and four-star market.

Adelson said Eilat's problems could be solved by a convention center in conjunction with the granting of a number of casino licenses. With three casinos, he said, some 8,000 to 10,000 jobs would be generated.

He added that Israel could support three separate convention centers - in Eilat, Tel Aviv, and Jerusalem. Each could flourish without competing with the others, since they would attract totally different markets, he said.

Adelson, whose business interests in Israel include movie theaters, investments in high-tech industries and a pending deal to establish a giant retail sales center, has been lobbying for casinos here for the past several years.

Aloni: Hotels must install additional public phones

JUDY SIEGEL

COMMUNICATIONS Minister Shulamit Aloni will require hotels to install a public phone in the lobby for each 40 rooms, so guests will not be forced to use their high-priced, in-house phone services, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

Aloni said that unless the hotels install the requisite number of public phones, operating either by Bezeq telecards or credit cards, she will use her authority to force them to do it.

There are only 605 public telephones in all the country's hotels. With 35,000 hotel rooms, there should be 875 to meet the one-per-40 ratio.

In other Bezeq news, a committee comprising of outgoing Treasury director-general Aharon Fogel and outgoing Bezeq chairman Moshe Haba presented their recommendations regarding Bezeq's demands to stop paying the government royalties.

The report suggests that royalty rates be reduced, but the number of services for which Bezeq pays be increased.

The finance and communications ministers are now studying the document.

Meanwhile, the ministry yesterday told Bezeq to cancel its deal with the Orion company for the provision of video services via optic-fiber cables.

Ministry director-general Shlomo Wachas said Bezeq had no license to make such a deal on an "experimental basis," and it feared an experiment would illegally become a regular service.

The Jerusalem District Court issued a temporary injunction against Bezeq's deal with Orion.

Shalom wants to push bill restructuring system for choosing public directors

EVELYN GORDON

CHAIRMAN of the Knesset Finance Committee's capital markets subcommittee Silvan Shalom (Likud) plans to push a bill to restructure the way public directors are chosen, following the recent accusations of corruption at Clal Israel.

Currently, public directors are chosen by an independent public commission, but from a list presented by each company.

Shalom would like to have the commission choose from a database of candidates instead, so public directors would not feel any obligation to the management that chose them, and so management would not be able to screen out non-compliant candidates.

However, Clal chairman Avi Olshinsky, who appeared at yes-

terday's subcommittee meeting, objected that Shalom's system might result in the appointment of directors who were not appropriate to the company's style of work.

The subcommittee will hold another meeting on this subject soon, at which Securities Authority director Arye Minkevich will present his ideas for improving the current system.

Minkevich said he did not have time to present his ideas at yesterday's meeting, beyond reiterating his suggestion that public directors be eliminated entirely, since they have ceased to serve any real purpose.

The committee also discussed the suit by Amir Ronen, former

deputy director of Clal International, against Clal. Ronen said he was unjustly fired after exposing corruption and embezzlement in the company.

According to Shalom, Ronen told the committee that Clal's financial reports were "censored," and Olshinsky and managing director David Weinshtal cooperated in covering this up.

He was afraid to take his complaints to the public directors, he said, because they are subservient to the company's principal shareholders.

Without going into the rights and wrongs of Ronen's accusations, Shalom said, the fact that the entire affair happened points up the need to increase public supervision of publicly traded companies.

Mercantile announces changes in senior management

GALIT LIPKIS-BECK

MERCANTILE Discount Bank yesterday announced major changes in its senior management team in a move designed to expand its branch network.

Deputy general manager Albert Attias was appointed head of the credit division. In his new role, Attias will be in charge of large credit accounts and procedures, as well as supervise the bank's economic division and mortgage division's credit transactions.

Treasurer Yisrael Salmon was appointed manager of Mercantile's branches and deputy general manager. In his new position,

he will be in charge of the bank's regional managers.

Hagi Heller was appointed controller of the bank, assistant to the general manager and a member of the board of management. Heller will be in charge of risk management, nostro investments, the bookkeeping system and financial reporting.

Mercantile appointed Miri Ben-Yehoshua to head its capital market, provident funds and saving plans divisions.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (5.1.95)

Currency (deposit for):	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$500,000)	5.750	6.250	7.000
Fixed sterling (£100,000)	5.000	5.500	6.375
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.250	4.500	4.875
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.125	3.375	3.625
Yen (10 million yen)	0.750	0.875	1.000

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (4.1.95)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	Banknotes	Rep. Rate
Currency basket	3.2350	3.2380	3.2351
U.S. dollar	3.0040	3.0070	3.0020
German mark	1.9244	1.9274	1.9248
Portuguese escudo	4.9588	4.9618	4.9581
French franc	0.5672	0.5692	0.5681
Japanese yen (100)	2.8713	2.8743	2.8711
Dutch guilder	1.7188	1.7218	1.7222
Swiss franc	2.8125	2.8155	2.8120
Swedish krona	0.4038	0.4068	0.4045
Norwegian krona	0.4401	0.4431	0.4450
Danish krone	0.4811	0.4841	0.4843
British pound	0.6211	0.6241	0.6239
Canadian dollar	2.1978	2.2008	2.1951
Australian dollar	0.5448	0.5478	0.5436
S. African rand	0.8288	0.8318	0.8286
Belgian franc (100)	0.2500	0.2530	0.2494
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7356	2.7386	2.7376
Italian lira (1000)	1.8484	1.8514	1.8511
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.2945
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.8941
Israeli shekel	3.2372	3.2402	3.2374
Irish punt	4.8322	4.8352	4.8349
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2715	2.2745	2.2721

* These rates vary according to bank.

** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

PRIME TARGET TARGET
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 3.1.95
Purchase Price: 132.82
Redemption Price: 130.73

leumi pia לוימיה פיה

PRIME PRIME
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 3.1.95
Purchase Price: 96.29
Redemption Price: 94.85

leumi pia לוימיה פיה

Reading between the lines...
you have time for trading action until 11 PM.

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

150

Key Representative Rates

US dollar	NIS 3.0280	+0.13%
Sterling	NIS 4.7237	+0.08%
Mark	NIS 1.9402	-0.02%

INTEL STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

DJ Industrials	3053.83	-17.15
DJ 30	1422.28	-4.78
DJ 100	1212.12	-4.44
NYSE	1000.00	-1.15
NYSE Transp.	1000.00	-1.15
S&P 500	1000.00	-1.15
AMEX	1000.00	-1.15

Other stock market indexes

FTSE 100	3053.83	-17.15
FTSE 100	3053.83	-17.15
FTSE 100	3053.83	-17.15

Israeli stocks in NY

AMEX	1000.00	-1.15
AMEX	1000.00	-1.15
AMEX	1000.00	-1.15

Libor rates

3 months	5.50
6 months	5.75
12 months	6.00

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

UK	1000.00	-1.15
UK	1000.00	-1.15
UK	1000.00	-1.15

INTEL COMMODITIES AND METALS

Gold	370.00
Gold	370.00
Gold	370.00

US commodities

Wheat	1.50
Wheat	1.50
Wheat	1.50

London commodities

Oil	15.00
Oil	15.00
Oil	15.00

Spot market metals (US)

Copper	1.50
Copper	1.50
Copper	1.50

New York metal futures

Gold	370.00
Gold	370.00
Gold	370.00

London metal futures

Gold	370.00
Gold	370.00
Gold	370.00

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-Sided trading				Two-Sided trading			
Commercial Banks				Commercial Banks			
Name	Price	% Change	Volume	Name	Price	% Change	Volume
Bank Leumi	150.00	-0.50	1000	Bank Leumi	150.00	-0.50	1000
Bank Hapoalim	140.00	-0.50	800	Bank Hapoalim	140.00	-0.50	800
Bank Mizrahi	130.00	-0.50	600	Bank Mizrahi	130.00	-0.50	600
Bank Discount	120.00	-0.50	400	Bank Discount	120.00	-0.50	400
Bank Hapoalim	110.00	-0.50	200	Bank Hapoalim	110.00	-0.50	200
Bank Leumi	100.00	-0.50	100	Bank Leumi	100.00	-0.50	100
Bank Hapoalim	90.00	-0.50	50	Bank Hapoalim	90.00	-0.50	50
Bank Leumi	80.00	-0.50	25	Bank Leumi	80.00	-0.50	25
Bank Hapoalim	70.00	-0.50	10	Bank Hapoalim	70.00	-0.50	10
Bank Leumi	60.00	-0.50	5	Bank Leumi	60.00	-0.50	5
Bank Hapoalim	50.00	-0.50	2	Bank Hapoalim	50.00	-0.50	2
Bank Leumi	40.00	-0.50	1	Bank Leumi	40.00	-0.50	1
Bank Hapoalim	30.00	-0.50	0	Bank Hapoalim	30.00	-0.50	0
Bank Leumi	20.00	-0.50	0	Bank Leumi	20.00	-0.50	0
Bank Hapoalim	10.00	-0.50	0	Bank Hapoalim	10.00	-0.50	0
Bank Leumi	0.00	-0.50	0	Bank Leumi	0.00	-0.50	0
Bank Hapoalim	0.00	-0.50	0	Bank Hapoalim	0.00	-0.50	0
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Bank Hapoalim							

Jazz, Rockets waging tightest battle in NBA

NEW YORK (AP) — With consistent play and balanced scoring, the Utah Jazz and the Houston Rockets are waging the NBA's tightest divisional battle.

Utah held on to its half-game lead over Houston with a 123-91 victory over Milwaukee, while the Rockets beat Dallas 110-98 Tuesday night.

The Jazz had eight players in double figures, including Jeff Hornacek with 18 points, in winning for the ninth time in 10th games.

"It's about winning now, not about who gets the shots," said forward Karl Malone, who scored 14 and had a team-high seven assists.

The Rockets were content to let Hakeem Olajuwon get the shots, although Robert Horry and Sam Cassell scored 18 points apiece. Against the Mavericks, Olajuwon had 41 points, 13 rebounds and five blocks.

Rockets 110, Mavericks 98. Olajuwon scored 18 of his team's 25 fourth-quarter points to hold off a Dallas rally.

The Mavericks trailed by as many as 20 points late in the game, but Dallas answered with a 17-2 run. Olajuwon scored the next six points.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Orlando	23	8	.743	7
New York	15	12	.556	7
New Jersey	13	19	.406	11.5
Boston	11	17	.393	11.5
Philadelphia	10	19	.347	12.5
Milwaukee	9	18	.333	13
Washington	7	20	.259	15

Central Division

BASKET Caceres beat visiting Hapoel Eilat 91-75 last night in the fifth game of the sweet sixteen final round of the European Korac Cup competition.

Eilat falls to 2-3 with the loss and must beat Stefanel Milano

to push Houston's advantage to 103-94 with 3:23 remaining.

Jim Jackson scored 27 points and Roy Tarpley added 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Mavericks.

Jazz 123, Bucks 91. Utah defeated Milwaukee for the seventh straight time.

Glenn Robinson led the visiting Bucks with 24 points, but committed nine turnovers. Vin Baker added 14 points.

For Utah, Bryon Russell had 17 points.

Spurs 91, Warriors 86. Golden State coach Don Nelson returned to the bench after an illness, but the result for the Warriors, who have lost 17 of 20, was the same.

Chuck Person hit a 3-pointer with 52 seconds left, his only points of the game, breaking a tie and giving San Antonio its ninth win in 10 games.

Rony Seikaly and Latrell Sprewell had 23 points each for Golden State.

In other news, the sale of the Warriors to Chris Cohan has been delayed at least two weeks because the NBA wants more time to examine the structure of the new ownership.

The Warriors said the sale originally was supposed to be completed yesterday, but was delayed partly because Cohan to restructure his loan commitments.

Nets 114, Pacers 103. New Jersey got nearly everyone back from injuries and it was well worth the wait. Benoit Benjamin scored a season-high 30 points and Derrick Coleman and Kenny Anderson had big games in their return as the Nets snapped a four-game losing streak by beating Indiana.

Coleman had 20 points and 15 rebounds and Anderson added 14 points and 16 assists.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS: New Jersey 114, Indiana 103. Portland 103, Atlanta 96. Phoenix 108, Sacramento 100. Denver 108, Minnesota 99 (OT). L.A. Lakers 105, Detroit 94. San Antonio 91, Golden State 86. Utah 123, Milwaukee 91. Houston 110, Dallas 98.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	20	9	.690	—
Houston	19	9	.679	—
San Antonio	18	10	.645	2.5
Denver	15	13	.538	4.5
Dallas	13	15	.464	5.5
Minnesota	6	21	.222	13

Pacific Division

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Cleveland Browns couldn't beat Pittsburgh when they led 10-0. They couldn't win when they trailed 14-0. In fact, the Browns haven't beaten the Steelers in their last three meetings.

Reggie Miller scored a season-high 37 points for the visiting Pacers.

SuperSonics 121, Bullets 107. Long-range shooting by Detlef Schrempf and Sarunas Marciulionis helped Seattle pull away to its 11th straight victory over Washington.

Gary Payton led Seattle with 24 points. Schrempf and Marciulionis each scored 18 at USAir Arena. Calbert Cheaney scored 23 for the Bullets.

Lakers 105, Pistons 96. Vlade Divac scored 23 points and Tony Smith added 10 of his 13 in the fourth quarter as Los Angeles sent Detroit to its sixth straight loss.

Terry Mills led the visiting Pistons with 24 points and five 3-pointers.

Trail Blazers 103, Hawks 98. Lemmy Wilkens' pursuit of a record-setting 939th victory goes on after Portland withstood a Hawks rally to win at Atlanta.

Clifford Robinson had 30 points, and Clyde Drexler made five free throws in the final 1:02 for the victory.

Stacey Augmon had a career-high 36 points for the Hawks.

Suns 108, Kings 100. Charles Barkley scored 11 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter as Phoenix ended Sacramento's four-game home winning streak.

Elliot Perry added 17 points for the Suns.

Syd Webb scored a season-high 23 points for Sacramento, which shot 33 percent in the final period.

Olden Polynice added 18 points and 14 rebounds for the Kings.

Utah defeated Milwaukee for the seventh straight time.

Glenn Robinson led the visiting Bucks with 24 points, but committed nine turnovers. Vin Baker added 14 points.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

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Pacific Division

● **Win the battle of turnovers.** In their first two games, the Browns had six interceptions and two fumbles. By contrast, the Steelers haven't had a turnover in their last three games against Cleveland.

Aussie recovery worries England

SYDNEY (Reuters) — Australian captain Mark Taylor launched a stunning fightback in the third Test yesterday after his England counterpart Mike Atherton appeared poised to record a rare victory.

After being set a seemingly unattainable victory target of 449, Taylor launched an assault on the English bowling at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Australia, which leads the series 2-0 and needs only a draw to retain the Ashes, was 139 for no wicket at close of play on the fourth day, still needing 310 for victory.

England holds the advantage going into the final day tomorrow despite Australia's fine recovery.

Statistically, the odds remain firmly in the tourists' favor. Only two teams in Test history have scored more than 400 in their second innings to win.

But the ease with which Taylor and opening partner Michael Slater accumulated their runs during the final session must have worried the England camp.

Taylor ended the day on 64 after hitting seven fours from 106 balls.

The New South Wales opener was marginally more aggressive than Slater, who faced 18 more balls to score an unbeaten 65, including eight fours.

Atherton declared England's second innings at 255 for two forty minutes before tea, stranding number three batsman Graeme Hick on 98 not out.

Australia coach Bobby Simpson said his side would adopt a positive approach today in pursuit of a remarkable victory.

"We will go out and play our natural game and only play with caution when there is no chance of winning. It's an achievable target," he said.

The game will be broadcast live on Channel 1, starting at 9:00 pm.

player, James Harvilla. Maccabi has now firmly established itself as the leading club in Israel in both the league and the State Cup, and Kazurin is free to concentrate on preparing for European encounters. If Maccabi wants to reach the Final Four, a win tonight is essential.

There is no reason why Maccabi should lose. All the players are fit and morale is high. Maccabi's only weakness is still in the playmaker role — but Guy Goodes is trying hard to get it right.

The game will be broadcast live on Channel 1, starting at 9:00 pm.



DISAPPOINTED — Graeme Hick pulls a ball for four during his innings of 98 not out, his highest score against Australia. (AP)

England team manager Keith Fletcher said the game was even-ly poised.

"The target will take some getting because it is a huge score but it is a flat pitch and we need to make a breakthrough," Fletcher said. "It's fifty-fifty at the moment."

"If we get a couple of early wickets we will be in the better position but if their two openers are still there at lunch time they will be looking good," he added.

Atherton's decision denied Hick a maiden Test century against Australia.

The Worcestershire batsman, who was stuck in the nineties for three overs, failed to score off what turned out to be the last three balls of the innings from seamer Damien Fleming to miss out.

"Graeme knew that the declaration was coming very soon," Fletcher said.

"Mike (Atherton) declared in the context of the match and it's the team and not the individual that's the most important thing."

Hick's previous highest score came against Australia at The Oval last year when he made 80, hitting one six and ten fours from 166 balls.

The two previous instances of sides successfully chasing over 400 to win in Tests were Australia reaching 404 against England at Headingley in 1948 and India's pursuit of 406 to beat West Indies at Port of Spain in 1975-76.

England first innings 309. Australia first innings 116. England second innings (overweight 90 for one).

G.Gooner lbw Fleming 29. M.Atherton c Taylor b Fleming 67. G.Hick not out 98. G.Thorne not out 14. Extras (b-w-l-rb) 14. Total (for two wickets, declared) 255. Fall: 1-64, 2-158.

Did not bat: J.Crawley, M.Gaeting, S.Rhodes, D.Gough, A.Fraser, D.Malcolm, P.Tillett. Bowling: McDermott 24-2-76-0 (nb-7), Fleming 20-3-66-2 (w-1), M.Waugh 2-1-0-0, Warne 18-2-48-0, May 10-1-55-0.

Australia second innings. M.Taylor not out 64. M.Slater not out 65. Extras (b-w-l-rb-2) 10. Total (for no wicket) 139. Bowling (to date): Malcolm 9-1-44-0, Gough 10-3-32-0, Fraser 7-1-28-0 (nb-1), Tait 10-0-20-0 (nb-1), Hick 2-0-0-0.

Eilat falls to Caceres

YOSEF SA'AR

BASKET Caceres beat visiting Hapoel Eilat 91-75 last night in the fifth game of the sweet sixteen final round of the European Korac Cup competition.

Eilat falls to 2-3 with the loss and must beat Stefanel Milano next week in the pool's final game to have any chance of making the quarter-finals.

Last-place Milano defeated Peristeri to create a three-way tie for second place in Group D.

Eilat was down 50-39 at half-time. It came back to within four points at the start of the second half but couldn't hold up to the homecourt pressure of Caceres.

For Eilat, Andrew Kennedy scored 27 points, Ari Rosenberg 13, Brian Kowson 9, Guy Kantor 9, Eyal Hai 7 and Nir Matalon 5.

For Caceres, Raymond Brown had 25 points, Jordi Soler 21, Rod Sellers 21, Miguel Angel Reyes 10, Inaki Rodriguez 11 and David Bravender 3.

In league action last night, Hapoel Galil Elyon beat Hapoel Gvat 110-69 (57-32).

For Galil, Oded Katash scored 24 points, while Brad Leaf chipped in 17.

Derrick Gervin netted 22 for Gvat.

National Basketball League

	W	L	Pct.
1. Maccabi Tel Aviv	12	3	.800
2. Maccabi Pithon	12	3	.800
3. Hapoel Eilat	10	5	.667
4. Hapoel Galil Elyon	10	5	.667
5. Hapoel Jerusalem	9	6	.600
6. Hapoel Holon	9	6	.600
7. Hapoel Tel Aviv	9	6	.600
8. Hapoel Herzliya	7	8	.467
9. Maccabi Jerusalem	5	10	.333
10. Maccabi Ramat Gan	5	10	.333
11. Hapoel Gvat	3	12	.200
12. Hapoel Haifa	4	11	.267
13. Hapoel Shvilyon	2	13	.133
14. Bnei Ramat Gan	0	15	.000

German to fight Foreman

DUESSELDORF (AP) — German boxer Axel Schulz will fight the venerable George Foreman for the heavyweight boxing title in the New Orleans Superdome on April 22, promoter Jean-Marcel Nartz has announced.

SIXTEEN-year-old Boaz Marcus of the Jerusalem Club showed excellent form to win Israel's 1994 novices lawn bowls tournament, beating Yitzhak Meir of Kiryat Ono 15-11 at the Netanya Club.

In a 36-strong field, with no age limit, but restricted to players of less than three years experience, Marcus outdrew his opponent — four times his senior — after having accounted for 17-year-old Moti Pollack of Savoyon and fel-

low club member Eugene Freund, 80.

Runner-up Meir, who was Romania's 18-year-old junior discus champion 45 years ago, played well to lead 11-10 at the 13th end. Marcus then took control to win five shots in the last three heads.

In the women's section, Shelly Haviv brought more honor to her Kiryat Ono Club, when, with

Slumping Benfica should present little challenge to Maccabi tonight

JOEL GORDIN

MACCABI Tel Aviv faces Benfica Lisbon tonight in what should be the Israeli club's only easy away match of the European Club Championship best-of-16 round.

The Portuguese club has not yet won a game in the contest, while Maccabi is 3-3. Maccabi coach Muli Kazurin reported last night from Lisbon that there seems to be scant interest in the game in Lisbon, meaning that both the Benfica team and its fans seem to have thrown in the towel as far as this year's European Club Championship is concerned. However, Kazurin cau-

tioned, "A team with nothing to lose is often dangerous."

Maccabi will definitely have a healthy respect for the club which last season eliminated Hapoel Tel Aviv from the European Club Championships.

Benfica's play is still based around its veteran 36-year-old shooting ace Carlos Lisboa. Other names familiar to Israelis from encounters against Hapoel Tel Aviv and Hapoel Galil Elyon (in 1992-3) are Jose Guimaraes and Angolan Jean Jacques Kousa.

They also have a new American player, James Harvilla.

Maccabi has now firmly established itself as the leading club in Israel in both the league and the State Cup, and Kazurin is free to concentrate on preparing for European encounters. If Maccabi wants to reach the Final Four, a win tonight is essential.

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Weiss refuses Ba-Gad's apology; MKs move to rewrite House Rules

KNESSET House Committee Chairman Haggai Merom (Labor) said yesterday that the committee is considering changing the house rules to introduce more drastic punishment for behavior such as MK Yosef Ba-Gad's violation of army censorship from the Knesset podium on Tuesday.

Currently the most severe punishment the committee is empowered to mete out is to ban an MK from attending five plenary sessions.

Ba-Gad entered the committee chamber to hand Speaker Shevah Weiss a written copy of the formal apology he made the previous night after being roundly condemned by one MK after another. But Weiss refused to accept the statement and Avi Yehzekel (Labor) shouted at Ba-Gad, "Get out! Scat" and added in an undertone, "He's trash. That guy is trash."

Merom convened a special meeting of the committee to discuss Ba-Gad's conduct. The MKs discussed various ideas but did not

come up with any concrete proposal.

"At the moment, we don't see that we have the means to punish Ba-Gad without harming other MKs," said Merom. "Since we want to preserve democracy, we have a problem. It seems the solution will be either through suspending Ba-Gad [from Knesset sessions] or boycotting him and not by [any other] punishment." Discussions on the subject will continue next week.

Ba-Gad vented his frustrations on reporters who tailed him asking him to respond to MKs' charges that he was mentally unbalanced.

"You media people won't win," he said. "I am stronger than you and the people of Israel are stronger than all of you. You are the opposite of democracy. I am a man of democracy. I was chosen by the people. You should learn to behave."

LIAT COLLINS and DAN IZENBERG

Referring to himself in the third person, Ba-Gad continued: "Rabbi Ba-Gad does not reply to anyone who calls him names. Whoever does so should examine himself. Rabbi Ba-Gad has been the head of a yeshiva for 40 years."

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) suggested changing the rules granting MKs complete parliamentary immunity so that in the future an MK who abuses his immunity and endangers lives would be suspended from the Knesset floor for one month. He also joined Labor MK Raanan Cohen's call to the attorney-general to ask the Knesset to lift Ba-Gad's immunity and try him on criminal charges.

Avraham Poraz (Meretz) urged the MKs to boycott Ba-Gad, and reminded them of how MKs had walked out of the chamber when Kach MK Meir Kahane spoke from the podium.

Yitzhak Frankenthal, whose son Ariel was abducted and killed by Hamas, has filed a criminal complaint against Ba-Gad asking them to remove his immunity and try him. Frankenthal argued that it is possible to try someone who releases false information likely to cause public alarm. Israel Radio reported.

Meanwhile, Chief Military Censor Brig.-Gen. Yitzhak Shani said yesterday that the Ba-Gad incident showed the Military Censor's office is ill-equipped to deal with live Knesset broadcasts.

Shani told a radio interviewer that MKs should be more aware of the fact that when they are speaking in the Knesset, their comments can be heard by all, and they should be more responsible about what they say.

"It's hard to do anything about people who are irresponsible. If democratic Israel has decided that there should be a broadcast from the Knesset - who am I to say?" he said.

Court orders Rabin to defend holding all 3 posts on appointments panel

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday issued an interim injunction and a show-cause order against a ministerial committee on appointments to the religious councils, because Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin occupies all its three slots.

The orders were issued in response to a petition filed Monday by the National Religious Party and two of its MKs, Yitzhak Levy and Shaul Yahalom. The injunction prevents the committee from meeting until the court makes a final decision on the petition. The show-cause order gives Rabin 30 days to justify the current situation.

Show-cause orders are generally issued without a hearing only if the justices consider the petitioners have a strong case.

Normally, 45 percent of appointments to religious councils are made by local councils, 45% by the religious affairs minister, and 10% by the local rabbinate. However, in the event of a dispute among these bodies, the de-

cision is made by a ministerial committee consisting of the prime minister, religious affairs ministers, or their representatives.

Currently, however, all three of these portfolios are held by Rabin.

The petition charged that this distorts the intent of the law, which is to ensure that three different interests would be represented on the committee. Though the court has accepted cases in which two of the three portfolios were held by the same man, there has never been a case in which all three were, it said.

Furthermore, the petition charged, two of the three representatives Rabin appointed to the committee openly work for Shas, which has a vested interest in the committee's decisions.

"This takes away the committee's objective character... [and] creates a severe conflict of interest, or at least the suspicion thereof," the petition said.

Suspected wife killer remanded for 15 days

DAVID RUDGE and RAINE MARCUS

A RALLY protesting violence against women was held last night outside Tel Aviv's Cinematheque in response to Tuesday's murder of Jacqueline Assraf by her husband. It was sponsored by the WIZO, Na'amat and Emunah women's organizations and included Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau.

Gabi Assraf was remanded yesterday for 15 days in Kiryat Shmona Magistrate's Court.

Judge Nebama Monitz agreed to a request by defense counsel David Spiegel that Assraf be sent for psychiatric observation during the remand period, but only after police conclude their inquiries.

Assraf was brought to court yesterday with a towel over his head, and was visibly shaking when reporters asked him what happened. He allegedly shot his wife several times at the doorstep of their home in the northern town while their two young children, age six and eight, were inside.

At the time of the murder, Assraf was under a three-month court order banning him from his wife's home, after having earlier served two years in prison for stabbing her.

He had been staying at his sister's home in Kiryat Shmona for the duration of the ban, and surrendered at the local police station immediately after the shooting. He also reportedly handed over the Galil rifle he had allegedly stolen from his nephew, a soldier.

Only around 100 women and a smattering of men turned up for the Tel Aviv rally, waving memorial candles and black banners bearing the names of women murdered this past year by their husbands.

Degania Eisenkott, a mother of four, narrowly escaped death last August when her ex-husband stabbed her nine times. Although



Demonstrators in Tel Aviv light candles during a rally to protest violence against women, sparked by the slaying of Jacqueline Assraf in Kiryat Shmona Tuesday. (Ron Alon/Israel Sun)

he is in jail awaiting trial for attempted murder, Eisenkott dreads the day of his release. "He has already sent threats from jail saying he will finish the job," she said.

Eisenkott said her former husband beat and abused her for nearly 16 years.

"When he gets out of prison, my name will be on these bereavement notices," she said pointing to banners held by protesters.

Chief Rabbi Lau compared the poor turnout to the general attitude regarding the problem of vi-

olence against women.

"The main problem is the indifference of our society - I don't see thousands of people here holding candles," he said. "We must not let these incidents continue - these women are screaming in silence."

He urged government ministries to launch a massive information and education campaign. He also slammed the "widespread screening of violent films viewed by young children" and suggested stricter censorship.

A small delegation of women from Kiryat Shmona also arrived

to show solidarity.

Na'amat chairperson, Ofra Friedman described husbands who beat their wives as terrorists. "Some of these terrorists are walking around free," she said, "and this is not happening in a dictatorship, but here."

Victims, she added, want to escape but have nowhere to run to. Even court orders banning violent men from returning home are often meaningless pieces of paper, she said. Friedman urged such men to stop and think before "this madness overpowers you."

"There is nothing to be

ashamed of by asking for help," she said. "It's not a sign of weakness."

MK Yael Dayan said scores of women phoned her following Assraf's murder, asking for help. "Their husbands are in prison for violent acts and are about to be released. They are terrified that they will be the next victims," she said.

"Why should these women be persecuted and have to hide? Where are they supposed to go with six kids to look after? The man should have his movements restricted, not the woman."

Druse arrested for throwing stun grenade

DAVID RUDGE

A DRUSE from Rama in the Galilee was arrested on suspicion of throwing a stun grenade at the home of a local Christian Arab on Tuesday night.

The grenade exploded in the backyard without causing any injuries or serious damage.

The incident followed widespread disturbances between Druse and Christian Arabs in the village, in which several people were stabbed and beaten and 10 suspects, five from each side, were arrested.

Police said the rioting erupted when a group of young Druse broke up a Christmas Eve procession and several people were injured.

The disturbances continued over the next few days, despite the efforts of a *sulha* committee to try to restore calm and the previously harmonious relations that had existed between the residents.

"We have always enjoyed good relations in the village, and we don't want those ties or the good name of Rama to be damaged," Jiries Mansour, a Christian resident of the village, said yesterday.

"We believe in Christ, the messiah of peace, and we fervently hope that peace and quiet will descend on the village once more and we can all continue to live and harmony."

Record number of tourists last year

JOSE ROSENFELD

TOURISTS flocked to the country in record numbers last year. There were 1,840,300 arrivals, an 11 percent increase over 1993, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Based on preliminary figures, about 386,000 tourists came from the US, or 21% of the total; 200,000 from Germany (11%); 190,000 from England (10%); and 162,000 from France (9%). The number of tourists entering after visiting Jordan jumped 49% to 96,800, due to the opening of the Arava border crossing in August and the Jordan River crossing in November. Tourists who came after visiting Egypt rose 17%, to 182,200.

Knesset panel declines to move survivors' office from Treasury

EVELYN GORDON

THE office in charge of aiding Nazi victims should not be transferred from the Treasury to the National Insurance Institute, a subcommittee of the Knesset State Control Committee decided yesterday.

The move had been suggested by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, but both the NII and representatives of the victims were strongly opposed.

Shlomo Cohen, NII deputy director for planning and research, told the subcommittee the NII lacks both the tools and the expertise needed for the job. The Treasury has acquired a degree of expertise simply through having run the office for so many years, he said, and it would not be wise to start a revolution now.

Prof. Yona Teichman and attorney Arye Ben-Tov, representing the victims, agreed with Cohen. The solution to the problem of the office's poor

functioning is for the Treasury to start giving it the necessary resources, Ben-Tov said, not to transfer it to another body which lacks experience in running it.

Germany, he added, transfers some \$720 million to Nazi victims here each year, and the contribution this makes to the economy should make a little generosity on the part of the state possible.

Subcommittee chairman Avraham Herschson (Likud) agreed that transferring the office to the NII would be a mistake. However, he said, the situation might be improved by setting up a public council to supervise its functioning.

"His subcommittee, he said, would work for the establishment of such a council, to be composed of both public representatives and representatives of the victims."

Authorities continue to round up farmers for tax fraud

RAINE MARCUS

THE tax authorities, presently waging war on farmers suspected of failing to pay millions of shekels in taxes, arrested four more farmers over the past few days, who appeared in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Brothers Ya'acov and Yosef Baron of Yavne and Ramle, respectively, were released on NIS 800,000 bail each, while Uri Ben-David, of Kfar Truman was released on NIS 875,000 bail. Doron Forer of Moshav Nahalim was remanded in custody for six days for fear he would interfere with the investigation.

Tax investigator Yosef Spiro said in court that Forer bought scores of liters of surplus milk from cattle breeders without declaring it and failed to pay his taxes on the cheese manufactured from the milk. He also allegedly sold sheep to slaughter houses without declaring it. Spiro said other suspects connected to Forer are still to be questioned, and his release would disrupt the investigation.

Forer claimed investigators confiscated documents which did not belong to him and that his detention would leave his farm unsupervised.

Ben-David, a cattle breeder and cheese manufacturer, allegedly produces more dairy products than allowed by dairy board regulations. He also allegedly sold surplus products on the black market and without declaring his earnings.

The Barons, who own a dairy, allegedly failed to register purchases of milk and owe millions of shekels in back taxes.

Health funds vie for new members in era of new coverage

JUDY SIEGEL

IN the new era of competition, the four public health funds are now interested in improving services for their existing members - but they wouldn't mind getting new members at the expense of their competitors.

Owing to confusion over Health Ministry rules on exactly what services they will have to provide and what supplementary health insurance schemes they may offer as an option, the four health funds are proceeding with care. None admits to having plans for a media blitz like those launched last year to attract new members before the

new system was launched.

Kupat Holim Clalit aims at "improving the satisfaction of existing members and bolstering staff courtesy and efficiency," said Clalit spokesman David Tagar yesterday. "We have opened a school at Beilinson in which all 7,000 staffers who deal with the public will be taught how to improve their performance."

The Histadrut's health fund also plans to introduce Total Quality Management techniques (involving a large num-

ber of employees in improving services) in all its facilities. "We are not going to battle via the media for more members at this time, but it would be foolish to reveal now what our strategy will be," Tagar said.

Assaf Becker, marketing manager for the Maccabi health fund, said it has launched an information campaign aimed at its one million members who have been confused by all the changes. This includes direct mailings, publications, pamphlets at branch offices, open

phone lines and even Second Channel advertisements.

The Leumi health fund hopes to grow by 20 percent this year beyond its present membership of 500,000 by making special efforts to attract students, Arabs and other groups. Member satisfaction with medical services already reaches 89 percent, "but we want to improve even more," says Shimshon Gabai, the Leumi spokesman. With its current deficit, he doubted whether there would be money for a promotion campaign in the media unless treasury aid was increased.

Tal Rabina, spokesman for the Meuhedet health fund, said it would work to disseminate information to members but "not an image-building campaign. This more modest, do-but-not-talk-about-it approach seems to be working well," said Rabina. Meuhedet, a bit smaller than Leumi, hopes to grow by 20 percent this year, and has set its sights on newly demobilized soldiers as new members.

THE LAST JEWS IN YEMEN

A new color video documenting the 2500 year old Jewish community in Yemen, just before their dream of Aliyah to Israel was fulfilled. The film follows Tamar Jaruffi-Ungar, a young Israeli of Yemenite descent in search of her ancestral roots. Included are scenes from places never filmed before portraying Jewish everyday life and the biblical, religious practices of this unique and ancient Jewish enclave. Filmed by Jack and Tamar Ungar. Produced by Larry Frisch. Narrated in English, 43 min.

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